

## Angry nations agree to dollar talks

By ANTHONY HARRIS, Economics Editor

The trading nations of the world made some small progress towards agreeing the dollar crisis yesterday. But sharp and dangerous differences remain, especially between the US and Japan.

Britain appears to have opted for a European solution, whatever that may turn out to be. Discussions in Brussels of the Common Market monetary committee centred on proposals to float European currencies as a bloc against the dollar, but no decisions were reached. Except as a short-term emergency measure, this would be opposed by the French and Belgians.

The Japanese continued to defy President Nixon's open invitation to revalue, accepting a fresh flood of dollars at the old parity; they have not replied to a US request to high level talks.

The common market public statements think of anti-Americanism in tone. In the Market Commission, Mr. Barber, the German Minister of Finance, said that the EEC would not be a "protectionist club" but a "free trade area".

When the European powers have achieved a common position—and possibly even if they do not—the way will be clear for a meeting of the Group of Ten of the OECD, which would bring in the US, Japan, Canada, and Sweden as well as Britain and the five main EEC countries. This is tentatively arranged for the weekend.

The US is actively canvassing European support in bringing pressure to bear on the Japanese to revalue the yen. This seems likely to be available in spite of anti-American feeling: the Germans in particular are becoming badly worried by Japanese competition. But in Tokyo, the Government has refused that it would stick to the present exchange rate, and there were calls from businessmen to counter the US moves by slowing down Japan's own programme of trade liberalisation.

While these exchanges went on, the effect of the crisis in the outside world became more marked. Currency dealing remained near a standstill—with the biggest business the borrowing of dollars to sell in Tokyo, where the central bank was compelled to add another \$700 million to its swollen reserves. The total is now about \$10,000 million.

In Tokyo the stock market fell sharply again, and in Wall Street there was another boom. Most other stock markets fell.

World trade in raw materials came to a virtual halt, as traders worried about currencies—and, in New York, whether the Nixon freeze applied to them.

There is likely to be a further selling wave soon because of a new and unhelpful American move. The US Treasury is to repay more than \$600 million which it has borrowed in the past few months from the foreign branches of US commercial banks. The borrowing was intended to mop up surplus dollars. The repayment will release them again for new speculation.

American tourists found their dollars devalued yesterday and the British also found foreign currency rationed, though no dearer.

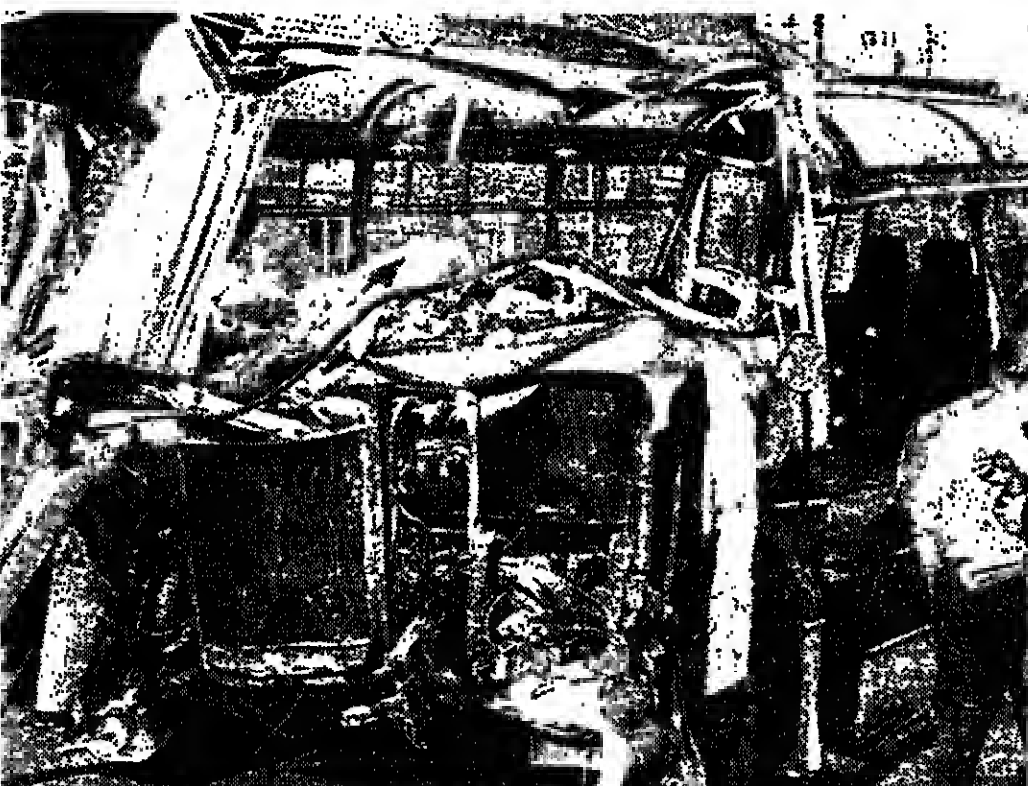
The Americans made a late move to save the face of the Japanese. Although Japan is the country most affected (apart from Canada) by the new US policies, it was not included in the itinerary of any senior US emissary to explain the moves.

Indeed, the Treasury Under-Secretary, Mr. Paul Volcker, has made matters worse by describing the permanent representative of the Japanese to the UN as "a man who is not to be trusted".

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A policeman holds a teddy bear which had been in the car (above) involved in the fatal collision with the coach (below) at Helmsley, Yorkshire, yesterday



## The prison visitors

By Simon Hoggart

THE MEN detained in Ulster's mass arrests had their first visits yesterday from wives and parents—a week after the arrests were made.

Throughout the day, the waiting room at the Crumlin Road gaol, in Belfast, was crisscrossed with women, many still dazed and unable to comprehend all the implications of what had happened to their husbands. Each clutched the precious pass issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

One was Mrs. Denise Murphy whose husband John, was arrested at 4.20 am. Mr. Murphy is a member of the People's Democracy and his wife still has no idea why he was taken. His case is being quoted by civil rights organisations in Belfast as a classic instance of the wrong men being detained. The couple have been married six months today.

"John told me that he had been taken to a police station near our home in Belfast by the soldiers. He was made to take off his shoes and socks and then they took him to Girdwood Barracks in the city. He said he had had to sit on the floor there for 48

hours but later they gave him a camp bed.

"A warden sat with us all the time that we were talking so I'm not absolutely sure that John felt free to tell me everything. But the warden was polite and even let us kiss and hug each other for a moment. I thought the warden was a little embarrassed. He kept looking away from us as if he were pretending to ignore us though occasionally he took some notes. John looked haggard and drawn but not ill and I didn't see anything to suggest he had been beaten, though I've heard that several of the detainees have been hit. They are kept in cells with one other person and allowed out to exercise for a few hours each day on a court with grass. Most of it seems to be just running about.

"I felt slightly foolish while I was there because he seemed so calm all the time. He grinned once or twice while I was shaking and trembling all the time. I kept asking him dozens and dozens of questions all in a sharp staccato voice completely unlike my normal voice and then I kept asking him more

questions before he got a chance to reply.

"The main impression I had was of absolute boredom of just having nothing meaningful to do all day. They don't do anything except sit there and wait for any scraps of news they can get about what is going to happen to them.

"The worst problem they all face is the terrible boredom especially as they are not given little tasks to do. Those ordinary jobs are done by the normal prisoners. Most of the time they just sit there. John asked for something to read and I sent him a copy of the Guardian, a biography of President Kennedy, and a copy of "Roderick Random," but he likes factual books—I don't suppose he'll enjoy the novel so much.

"He said that at the beginning of internment he had been questioned several times a day and they kept coming back to two subjects. They wanted to know what people he knew and what his views on violence were. They asked him what he thought of people who threw petrol bombs. I don't know how he answered but I know that he has always believed in peace.

"The worst thing is not having any idea when he'll be released.

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## Eight die in coach crash

BY OUR OWN REPORTERS

Fifteen people, three of them children, died in three road accidents yesterday.

Eight died in a crash involving a coach and car at Helmsley in the North Riding of Yorkshire; 37 people were taken to hospital.

Two of the dead were in the car, although a girl aged 23 survived. She was said last night to be "reasonably comfortable" in hospital in York. The rest were old people, members of the Clifton Pensioners' Club of York, on an outing to the moors.

The accident happened on a hump-backed bridge over the river Rye. Eyewitnesses said that the coach, horn blaring, ran down a steep hill leading to the bridge and failed to take a turn on the other side. It struck the car, and both vehicles crashed into the living room of a roadside house—the car being pushed by the coach.

Mrs. Katharine Metcalfe, who was in the cottage, saw the coach coming and scrambled to safety as the living room wall caved in.

The first man on the scene after the accident was the village postman, Bernard Bradley. "It was cycling to work when it happened," he said. "It was terrible. The bus came down the hill and over the bridge towards the village—but instead of turning left it just went straight on and ploughed into the cottage on the corner."

"The car ended up inside and the coach with its front in the wall. The terrible thing was that the man who lived in the cottage died yesterday, and his body was laid out in the house."

Mr. Bradley said he managed to move some of the masonry from the head of the coach driver, Mr. Joe Crompton, of Danebury Drive, York, a student, Chris Smith, said: "The old people were terrified. Practically everyone on the coach was injured—mostly by flying glass."

Many people were trapped inside the wrecked coach. Its front door was impassable and for a while rescuers could not open the emergency door. Then a woman inside managed to open it partly. Three or four people were rescued before firemen arrived with cutting gear.

All emergency services were alerted, and a fleet of ambulances took the injured to hospitals in Northallerton, Thirsk, and Scarborough.

Sixteen of the 19 injured taken to the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton, were being detained late last night. A spokesman said that some were in a critical condition and were being operated on. Ten of the 19 casualties taken to York were being detained.

Five people died when a car went out of control on the Ashford bypass in Kent. A child escaped with minor injuries but another who was in the car died. The car, a green Morris 1100, left the road and crashed into a tree. No other vehicle was involved.

Dawn Sally Killick aged nine, and her sister, Ann Glenda, aged six, were killed by a lorry as they were walking along Maiden Lane Crayford, Kent, to their home in Crayford Way. The lorry was driven by Mr. Reginald Baker, of Rainham, Essex.

The deaths took the total killed on the roads of the London borough of Bexley this year to 20, only two short of the total for the whole of last year.

## Mintoff flies to Tripoli talks

Valletta, August 17

Malta's Prime Minister, Mr. Mintoff, left the island tonight for talks in Libya immediately after receiving a reply from London to his request for more information about the package deal on offer from Britain and NATO.

His sudden departure came after a brief visit from Major Jalloud, the Libyan Minister of Industry and Economy, who came to Valletta unannounced tonight. Major Jalloud may have brought firm proposals for the aid which Colonel Gadhafi has offered to Malta. This is reported to be up to £35 million a year.

Colonel Gadhafi has not publicly specified the amount. He has said only that there will be no strings and has exhorted Malta not to align itself with East or West.

Mr. Mintoff's visit to Tripoli, accompanied by two advisers, including an official of the central bank, is the latest in a series of exchanges between the two Governments over the past two months. He is expected to be back in Valletta tomorrow night for an evening session of Parliament.

The timing of his departure, although it clashed by coincidence with the arrival of the reply from London, is at least a faint embarrassment to the British. But acceptance of the British-NATO offer is still, marginally, the best bet.

Mr. Mintoff indicated yesterday that there is no immediate need for £19 million for current expenditure and capital projects. With the lack of confidence which some investors and importers have in Malta's future, the pressures on the Government to act swiftly are mounting.

The British-NATO package had a ceiling of £15 million including bilateral credits from some NATO countries. These include the US whose contribution would not be affected by President Nixon's 10 per cent cut in foreign aid.

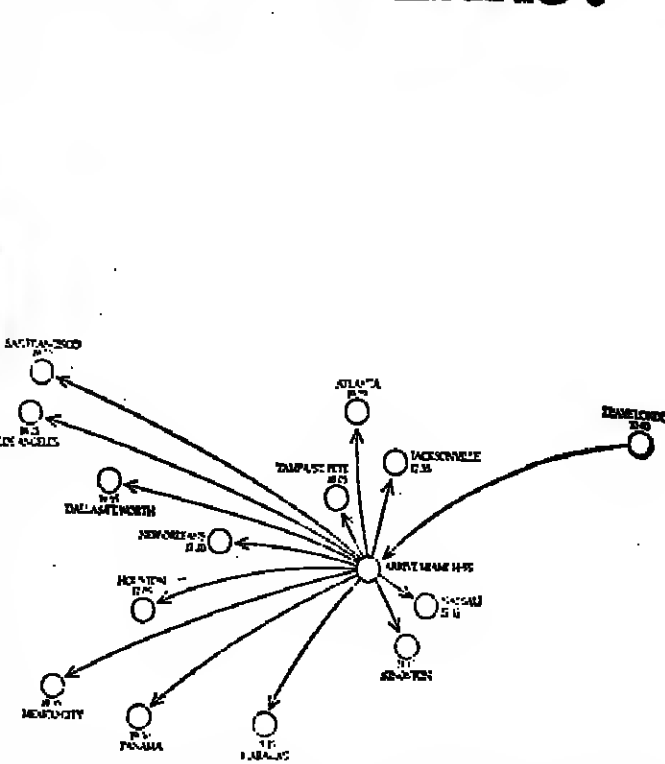
As for other hiders, the Russian Ambassador to London, Mr. Smirnovsky, who is also accredited to Malta, left the island today after a two-day visit. He said his visit had been "useful." According to one report, he offered "unconditional" Russian aid to Mr. Mintoff.

## TV, radio—2

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## WHAT'S THE CONNECTION BETWEEN LONDON, MIAMI AND NEW ORLEANS?



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## Claims on aircraft noise doubted

By DAVID FAIRHALL, Air Correspondent

The aircraft noise index that has provided so much political ammunition for arguments about the siting of London's third airport, and for resistance to the development of existing airports, is seriously misleading according to a Government report published today.

Known as the Noise and Number Index (NNI), it has progressively over-estimated the "annoyance" caused by a major airport, and gives too much weight to the number of aircraft heard, as opposed to how near they are or how noisy.

This conclusion has fundamental implications for the debate over London's airports. It implies, for example, that the growth of an existing airport like Gatwick—where the Government has ruled out the construction of a second runway—is likely to be less destructive

in terms of noise nuisance than the creation of a completely new source of aircraft noise, whether it be at Foulness or Croydon.

This point has often been argued as a matter of common sense. Now it has scientific support. But the Department of Trade and Industry's policy seems to have been based on precisely the opposite assumption—that the way to solve the social problem of airport noise is to stabilise the pressure where it exists at present and transfer as much as possible to a new third London airport site.

The NNI was developed by the Wilson Committee after a survey of people living near Heathrow Airport in London in 1961. The new report is based on field work carried out there in 1967. And to the researchers' evident surprise, it shows an increase in the measured annoyance from aircraft noise over that period, although the

number of aircraft using the airport has of course increased enormously. So the idea embodied in the NNI concept, that there is a trade off between noise and number with noise being the more important factor, is not supported by the later evidence. And incidentally, the noise contour maps used by the Roskill Commission should be redrawn.

The fact that the 1967 survey isolates the loudness of aircraft noise as being relatively so much more significant than the annoyance caused by it, previously assumed suggests another immensely important possibility—that the use of quieter aircraft like the Lockheed TriStar, with its Rolls Royce engines, could reduce the annoyance caused by an airport even though its traffic was growing. And again this

principle could be applied to Gatwick, provided the situation at Heathrow to the mid-1960s can be shown to parallel the Surrey airport's today.

Another commonsense assumption borne out by the new survey is that "middle class" people tend to complain more about aircraft noise than their "working class" neighbours. This helps to explain the curious discovery that more people living in a 15-mile area round Heathrow tended to rate it as "noisy" or "very noisy" than in the 10-mile area immediately surrounding the airport, although the smaller area was subject to more noise. Middle-aged and elderly people, as one might expect, were more annoyed by aircraft than younger people.

One point on which the report tends to confirm the Wilson Committee's work is the special importance—to some people—of aircraft noise at night.

Almost half the 1967 sample of people interviewed claimed to suffer no disturbance at night, but those who said they had difficulty in sleeping were predictably more annoyed by noise at night than in the daytime.

The survey disclosed widespread ignorance of soundproofing methods and the Government's grant scheme. Three-quarters of those living in the areas which qualify for a grant knew of the Government scheme, but only a half realised that they themselves qualified. Few of them knew the details of the scheme and in any case their opinion of the effectiveness of soundproofing tended to be only moderate or poor.

Second Survey of Aircraft Noise Annoyance around London (Heathrow) Airport, HMSO £2.20.

Noble noddled, page 11







# answ Russians put Swiss teacher on trial

Moscow, August 17  
A Swiss teacher and a Russian physicist to whom he is alleged to have given his passport so that the Russian could see the Soviet Union, went on trial here today.  
The Russian, Dmitri Mikheyev (28), was charged with treason and anti-Soviet agitation. Dismissed from his job, he applied this information said the Swiss, Francois de Perregaux (43), were not known. The Swiss embassy declined to discuss the case and Soviet officials made no public disclosure of charges against either defendant.  
It is understood that Mikheyev was arrested in October as he boarded a flight to Vienna at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport. Perregaux was arrested later the same day.  
Western reporters were barred from the trial in the city today. An elderly man, who said he was Perregaux's father, told journalists waiting the corridor: "My son does not know anything about this."

A court official said Perregaux himself had said he did not want journalists in court, but that he had been told that he would not be admitted because there are no seats.  
Perregaux is believed to have come to the Soviet Union as a tourist. He is alleged to have given Mikheyev his passport and a plane ticket after being asked to do so by another Swiss who had been a student in Moscow.

Disidents say Mikheyev had asked to leave the Soviet Union for several years. They say the charge against him of anti-Soviet agitation is based on allegations that he distributed underground literature at his place of work. — UPI and euter.

## Third man on hoax charge

A third man was charged yesterday in connection with the \$500,000 Qantas bomb hoax on July 6. Francis William Johnson (21), a miner, was charged by police at Mount Isa, north Queensland, with stealing detonators and gelignite used in the hoax.

BOTH the friends and the enemies of the military Government agree that there has been a "revolution" in Peru since the October 3 coup of 1968, but it is very difficult to find anyone who can make a convincing forecast as to what will happen next.  
It is characteristic that both Left and Right are divided between supporters and opponents of the regime — because neither can make up its collective mind as to the likely effects of the military Government's sweeping reforms.

One cynical Lima lawyer told me: "It's as if a man with a gun had walked into a bridge club and said: 'The game's over. From now on you will all play dominoes.' Because there were no dominoes in the club and because none of them really knew the rules of the new game, the members spent the next few hours discussing the likely effect of the change."

Land reform is a good instance of this confusion. Almost anyone who had travelled through the Peruvian Andes or up the coast agreed that something had to be done to solve Peru's appalling agrarian problems, which included vast estates (one the size of Belgium) running from the top of the mountains down to the sea, minute holdings which could not possibly support a family, feudal systems of tenure and servitude, a low rate of investment and low productivity.

Every recent Government has attempted to tinker with this problem, but the military Government has made land reform a cornerstone of its policy and passed a law which is more radical than anything yet seen in Latin America outside Cuba. The Land Reform Administration has power to expropriate virtually any piece of land which stands in the way of its plans, powers to form cooperatives and control the activities of peasants — for bidding them, for instance, to sell cows of calf-bearing age.

The most dramatic changes to date have been on the coast, where the great sugar plantations have been turned into cooperatives, and in the central Andes where cattle and sheep ranches have been taken over from their former owners.

Told like this it all sounds great, and it may sound carping to suggest that all is not entirely well; Rome was not built in a day. However, it must be said that although the agricultural sector knows that the old game is definitively over, it does not yet know the rules of the new game.

Nor, one fears, does the Government. In his speech on July 28—the one hundredth and fiftieth anniversary of Peru's independence — President Velasco promised to respect small and medium-sized properties, but given the acute scarcity of developed arable

CHRISTOPHER ROPER reports from Lima on the military government's attempts to solve Peru's appalling agricultural problems

## Land reform slow to pay off

land, it is quite likely that this will not be possible. On the coast there is enough land which may be expropriated under the law to create 79,916 family farm units, and 171,000 peasant families qualified to receive them.

Understandably there is considerable pressure within the agrarian reform administration to push ahead with cooperatives which may be able to hold more families than the same land split up into family units. Under Article 45 of the 1969 law, the Government may expropriate any farm if it can be shown that anti-social labour conditions exist there.

According to figures produced by the agrarian reformers themselves, about 200,000 peasant families will have to be displaced by the reforms — either to new lands in the jungle or into industrial or commercial employment. Other studies suggest that the figure of 200,000 is optimistically low.

The current ambiguity has led to a virtual halt in investment by small and medium proprietors, who are not prepared to plant crops or keep on labour.

Quite apart from the Government's inability to decide on what kind of agrarian structure it ultimately wants to see in Peru, there are financial problems. Too much money was used initially in buying cattle off the old owners, not enough is left for extension services or research.

Even where the Government did take a bold decision, as with the formation of sugar-producing cooperatives on the coast, there are conflicts between the workers who want to distribute all the profits among themselves and the Government, which wishes to see the cooperatives contributing to the national budget.

The Right wing hopes to see the problem settled in favour of family units and hopes that the Government will see the urgent necessity of increasing rural incomes by removing price controls on agricultural produce.

The Left wing hopes that the peasants will begin to seize the initiative for themselves and turn the cooperatives into genuinely autonomous organisations. No one really knows what will happen. One Left-wing observer said he thought the great gain was the sweeping away of a political structure which could never return.

This political structure used to be exemplified by a Right-wing senator, Julio de la Piedra, who owned a sugar hacienda in the north. He confided once to a group of journalists that he had based his career on the fact that the man who owned the land at the top of the Andes controlled the water right down to the coast.

And the man who controls the water, controls the politics of a district and the lives of the people. De la Piedra was displaced in 1968 by the military coup.  
The Sociedad Nacional



Market day of Pisac

## Dr Obote gives evidence by letter

Khartum, August 17  
The military tribunal trying the German mercenary, Rolf Steiner, was told today that the Sudanese Government had asked the former President of Uganda, Dr Obote, to appear as a witness. But in a message to the Sudanese Government which was read in court, Dr Obote declined to attend because "there are certain people who are after my life."

Steiner (40) is accused of leading secessionist rebels in the Southern Sudan. He was arrested after he crossed into Uganda last October and was handed over to Sudan by Dr Obote's Government.

In his letter, written from Tanzania where he is now living, Dr Obote said he had decided to hand Steiner over in compliance with an agreement on mercenaries reached by a conference of Heads of State of the Organisation of African Unity.

Dr Obote, whose letter was read by Mr Mohammed Omer Beshir, head of the Sudan Foreign Ministry's African section, said the West German Government had asked him to extradite Steiner. He had rejected the request.

Steiner's counsel, Dr Saleim Eissa, asked the court to ignore completely Dr Obote's letter. Obote was, he said, no longer a Head of State. He was an ordinary individual who could appear and be questioned as a witness.

The tribunal rejected Dr Eissa's request that Dr Obote's letter should not be accepted as a court document. The Judge-Advocate said it would be necessary to differentiate between acceptance of the document and the correctness of what it said. The court assured Dr Eissa that he would be given full freedom to scrutinise the contents of the letter. — Reuter.

## Drug planted?

Mr Eugene Maximilien, aged 47, Haiti's consul in Miami, was arrested yesterday and charged with growing marijuana in the back yard of his suburban home. After being granted bail he said: "I wouldn't know what a marijuana plant looked like. Somebody did this to me."

## Australians face burden of inflation

Canberra, August 17  
The Federal Treasurer, Mr Billy Snedden, placed the burden of inflation on Australian taxpayers in presenting the annual Budget to Parliament tonight. The Budget proposes that Australians should pay more income tax, more for cigarettes, petrol, telephones, stamps, radio and television licences, and medical prescriptions.

Mr Snedden said income tax must be raised by 2½ per cent, cigarettes by two or three cents, a pack for an average price of 43 cents (about 21p), petrol by two cents a gallon (1p), and medical prescriptions from 50 cents (24p) to \$A1 (about 47p).

Mail charges will rise from six to seven cents for ordinary letters, while private telephone calls will rise by three quarters of a cent.

Mr Snedden said, however, that the government proposed to increase pensions to the aged, widows, and incapacitated, and child endowment payments after the second child and promised to subsidise Australia's ailing wool industry by guaranteeing a fixed price of 38 cents (17p) a pound.

He said Australia was in the grip of inflationary pressures, and if allowed to develop unchecked, will cause increasing economic and social hardship to many people.

"So far as lies in our own power as a government, we are determined to combat this pernicious trend, slow it down and hobble it," he said.

Mr Snedden placed responsibility for part of the inflationary trend on Australian unions, saying: "In general, there has been, and still is, a powerful upsurge of costs stemming largely though not wholly from large wage claims relentlessly pursued."

The Budget aims at an overall deficit of \$A11 millions (\$5.1 millions) and a domestic surplus of \$A630 millions (\$294 millions). Total revenue is estimated at \$A8,822 millions (\$4,113 millions) and expenditure at \$A9,933 millions (\$4,122 millions).

Defence and foreign aid are to be increased but assistance to migrants will decrease. Canberra observers, however, see the Budget as being aimed mainly at the domestic sector.

"It certainly indicates that there won't be an early election," one said.  
The increase in personal income tax will double the present surcharge of 2½ per cent. This means that a person with a \$A4,000 (£1,867) annual taxable income will pay \$A711 (\$378) a year tax — an increase of \$A17 (£7.94).  
The subsidy scheme for the wool industry will last for one year only, and a Victorian Graziers' Association spokesman said it would "in no way assist the industry to cope with the level of prices in future years."

For Australia's drinkers, the Budget brought no change — a decision welcomed tonight by a brewers' spokesman who said Australian beer drinkers are already the "most excised" in the world. — UPI and Reuter.

## Multiple transplant man dies

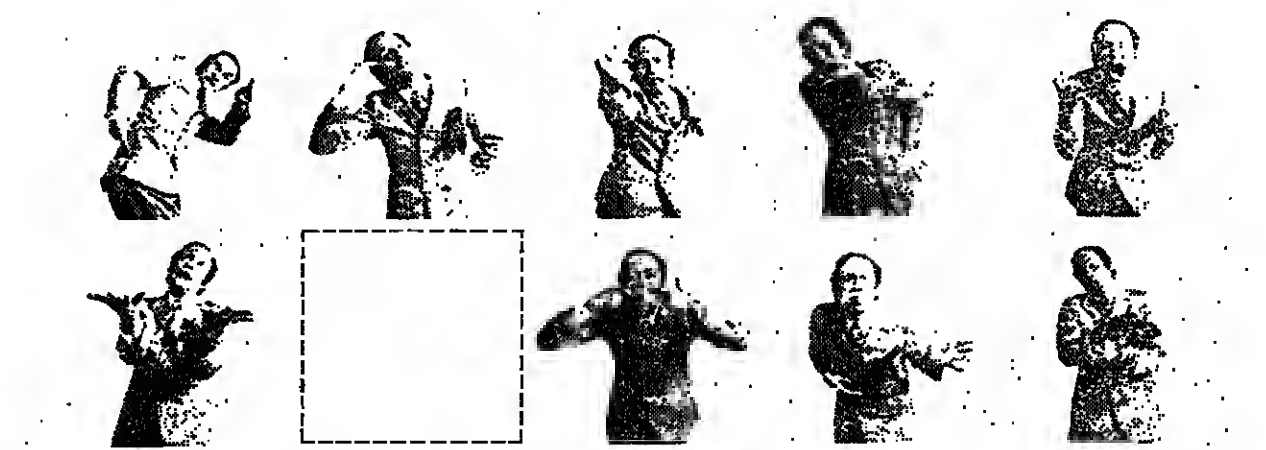
Capetown, August 17  
Adrian Herbert, aged 49, the longest surviving multiple-transplant patient died here today, 23 days after receiving the heart and lungs of a murdered African.

What finally killed Mr Herbert, a Coloured dental mechanic, was not disclosed but Professor Barnard, his surgeon, has indicated he will write about it later in a medical journal.

Mr Herbert fought a battle for survival that required three further operations to aid his breathing. At no time after the transplant operation were any predictions made by surgeons about his chances, but medical sources privately always rated them as slender.

Groote Schuur hospital's bulletin announcing Mr Herbert's death was the tersest of any it had released during his illness. All it said was that he had died at 7.50 a.m. — Reuter.

## A few Italian hand signals you won't find in the Continental Guide.



At first sight, it seems encouraging that Italian drivers use so many hand signals.

The trouble is that most of them indicate disparaging observations on the ancestry of the driver in front, rather than whether the signaller is turning left or right. This is hardly surprising, since he himself seldom knows which way he's turning until he's turning.

You'll notice too that some signals require the use of both hands, which can be quite exciting at 150 Km an hour. This probably accounts for something unique in Italy: passenger's hand signals. The most usual of these is both hands covering the eyes. Another popular passenger sign is that of the cross.

As Italy's largest tyre manufacturer, Pirelli

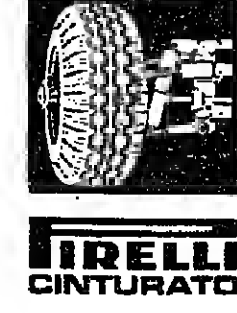
saw all this coming decades ago, and embarked on years of research and experiment which eventually resulted in the Pirelli Cinturato — the first ever textile radial-ply tyre.

It helped, to say the least. And we've been improving it steadily ever since, so things are still getting better.

Best of all, we have factories in Britain too, so you can get the same superlative tyre at the same cost as other radial tyres.

Even if you don't take your life in your hands every time you drive, you'll be that much safer with a set of Cints under you.

If they can keep the Italians out of trouble think what they can do for you.





# Banda sees a fraternal future

From STANLEY UYS: Cape Town, August 17

President Banda of Malawi told an invited white audience here today that accusations by African countries that he was "a traitor and sellout" to the African cause would not deter him from continuing his country's friendship with South Africa.

The accusations were "unfair and absolutely untrue," which has produced most of South Africa's Prime Ministers. Explaining why he opposed violent methods against South Africa, he said: "War is a serious business, you know. It is not just a matter of sending in a few soldiers. This is my attitude. This is why you see me here today."

Dr Banda warned white South Africans against viewing Africans with fear and distrust, and then assuming that all Africans viewed them similarly with fear and distrust. He visited the Anglo-South African naval base at Simonstown before lunching at Admiralty House with the chief of the South African Navy, Vice-Admiral Hugo Biermann.

Dr Banda is to make a sentimental journey tomorrow to the site of an old goldmine where he once worked as a boy, and will address thousands of independent African miners before returning to Johannesburg to be guest of honour at a state banquet given by President Fouché.

## Africans tell of gifts from fund

Pretoria, August 17

African witnesses today testified at the Dean of Johannesburg's trial here that they received money from the Defence and Aid Fund through the dean's cathedral of St Mary's.

The State alleges that the Very Rev Frensch-Beyl had channelled funds from Defence and Aid to illegal organisations or people in Pretoria. He faces 10 charges of plotting the overthrow of the Government.

The witnesses, relatives, of political prisoners mainly detained on Cape Town's Robben Island, said they had received the money for such things as their personal upkeep, spectacles, and train tickets to visit relatives.

Some of this money had come direct from the dean, some from other people at the cathedral, and some direct from Defence and Aid, a London-based organisation outlawed in South Africa in 1968.

## US admits hits on buffer zone

Saigon, August 17

The United States military command today acknowledged for the first time since President Johnson halted the bombing of North Vietnam in November, 1968, that B-52s were hitting targets inside the southern half of the demilitarised zone.

North Vietnamese gunners meanwhile kept up pressure on South Vietnamese bases just below the buffer strip today as the American bombers flew overhead, attacking suspected Communist targets.

The American admission came after several days of questioning by journalists. A US spokesman said the B-52 missions would continue without any altered forces were engaged and as long there were "meaningful" targets inside the demilitarised zone.

He was unable to give the exact number of times the B-52s have flown inside the strip since the 1968 bombing halt, describing the missions as periodic.

He said that the southern half of the strip was South Vietnamese territory and the bombings in no way had infringed the bombing halt.—Reuter.

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES and DEATHS

Announcements, authenticated by the name and permanent address of the person may be placed in this column. Births, marriages and deaths may be placed in this column. Births, marriages and deaths may be placed in this column.

### ENGAGEMENTS

SMITH—EMPE. The engagement is announced between KATHLEEN MARY, daughter of Mr and Mrs W. S. Smith, of 14, Elmwood, and MICHAEL EMPE, son of Mr and Mrs A. Empe, of 1, Kestrel, Chester.

WINDINGTON—ROBERT. The engagement is announced between PETER of 14, Rue de la Cour, Geneva, and ROBERT WINDINGTON, son of Mr and Mrs W. Windington, of 1, Rue de la Cour, Geneva.

### MARRIAGE

BROUGHTON—NEELD. On August 14, 1971, at St. Andrew's Church, the Rev. W. Williams, officiating, the marriage of Mr and Mrs W. Broughton, of 1, Rue de la Cour, Geneva, and Mrs W. Neeld, of 1, Rue de la Cour, Geneva.

### DEATHS

EARLE—On August 16, 1971, JOYCE EARLE, of 2, West Thorne, Park Road, Bowdoin, Cheshire, wife of the late George William Earle, and mother of John, died at the age of 78 years, after a long illness.

NORRIS—On August 17, 1971, at 11, Velsbeck Road, Wrexham, JAMES NORRIS, of 11, Velsbeck Road, Wrexham, died at the age of 78 years, after a long illness.

### CO-OPERATIVE FUNERAL UNDERTAKERS LTD.

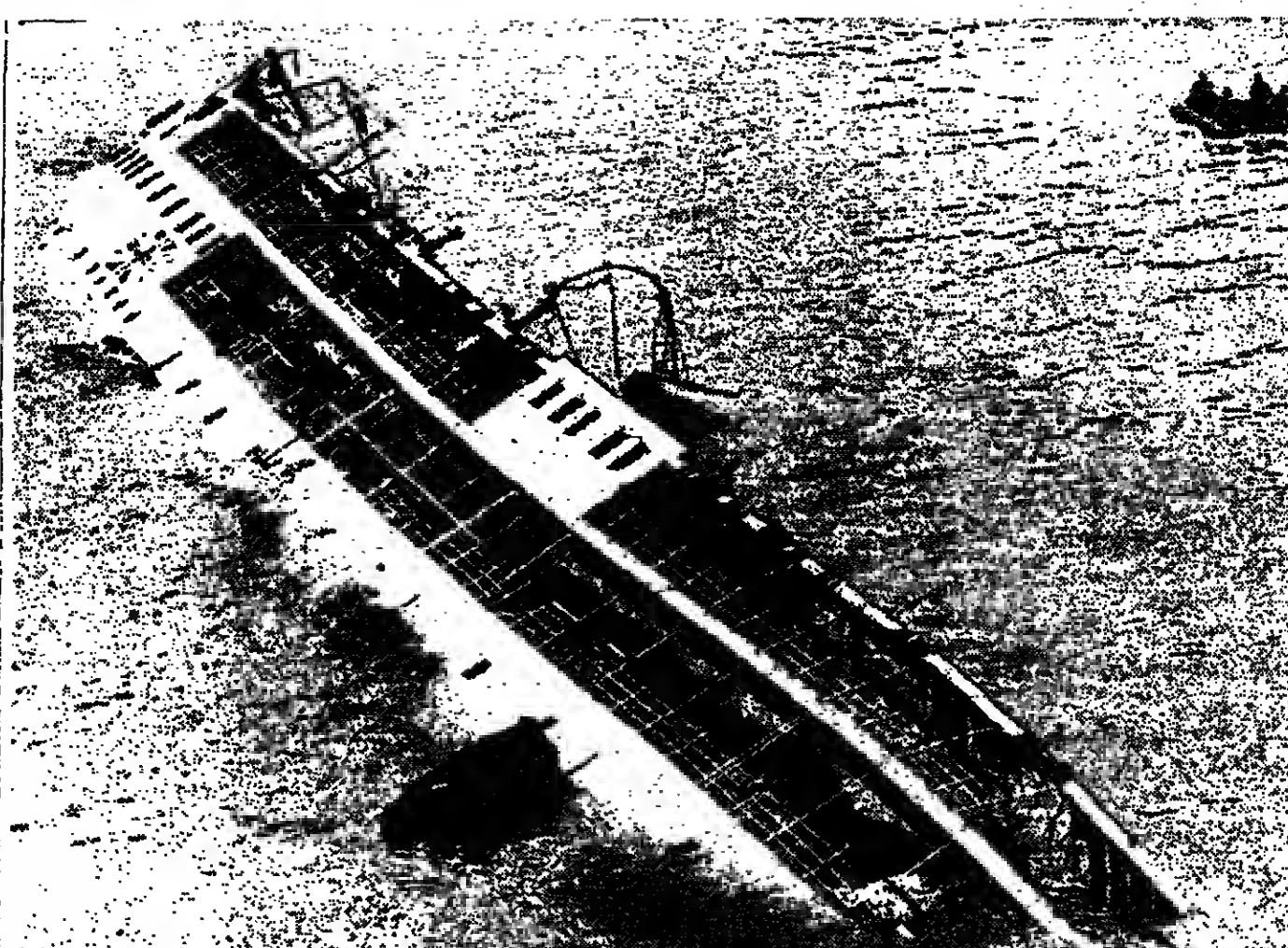
CHAPEL OF REST

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The Macao-Hongkong ferry lying on her side after being overturned by typhoon winds

## Typhoon death toll of 100 feared

Hongkong, August 17

More than 100 people are thought to have died here today when the colony was struck by a 115-mph typhoon. Between 70 and 80 seamen were feared drowned in a capsized ferry and at least 12 people were killed on shore.

Thirty-seven ships were ripped from their moorings and swept ashore, including more than 20 ocean-going craft. Among them were the USS Regulus, a supply ship for the United States Seventh Fleet, and the British tanker Humblard.

Officials said the worst single incident on shore occurred when a small boat crashed down on a small boat in the New Territories burying four children. Only one survived. Two other children were killed in a landslide on Hongkong Island.

Streets on both Hongkong

island and Kowloon were littered with trees, signposts, power lines, and wrecked cars. About 1,500 people were reported homeless, and 350 injured. Forty were detained in hospital.

The stricken ferry was the Fat Shan, 2,600 tons, which plies between Hongkong and Macao, 45 miles away. A government spokesman said 70 to 80 crew were believed to have been aboard the craft and most of them were missing. No passengers were on board.

When Typhoon Rose struck the ferry smashed into two other ships and then capsized in about 30 feet of water. Only four survivors are known to have reached the shore. Four bodies were recovered from the vessel.

The Shun Tak Shipping Co., which operates the Fat Shan, said the ferry left a

wharf here last night to anchor in harbour before the typhoon struck. A large crew had remained on board because many were residents of Macao.

Stanley Ho, managing director of Shun Tak, said four Britons were among the crew members, including the captain, Mr L. L. Price (69), who was reported to have been thrown overboard and was among the missing.

Divers and other rescue workers of the Royal Navy and marine police said they had abandoned hope of finding any crew members alive in the vessel. Earlier hopes that some might still be alive were raised when one of the divers reported hearing "random sounds" from inside the hull. This was later attributed to "normal sounds emanating from a waterlogged vessel."

News of the disaster was brought here by the British minesweeper, Kirkistoun, whose crew said the scene near the Fat Shan was like a "marine junkyard."

One ship which weathered the storm virtually undamaged was the former Queen Elizabeth (83,600 tons). Rechristened the Seawise University, she arrived in Hongkong last evening for refuelling as a floating campus for a California college.

Officials said the ex-Queen sustained only minor damage, such as broken windows and doors although she was endangered several times by other ships which were blown out of control and almost smashed into her.

● HURRICANE BETH is moving northwards through Nova Scotia leaving a trail of flooded homes, wrecked buildings, and weakened dams. — UPI and Reuter.

## Italy running short of change

From GEORGE ARMSTRONG: Rome, August 17

It is child's play and a child's lot for some of the collected coins in a wishing well or fountain, or forget them and leave them in the bottom of his valise.

Coffee bars, even when they are situated next to banks, either make no effort to keep change or allegedly find it impossible to do so. If a cup of espresso coffee costs 70 lire the cashier is likely to take your 100-lire coin and give you three fruitdrops, theoretically worth 30 lire.

The actual value of the sweets is, of course, much less, and if one should be of such a contrary nature as to return to the same bar later and attempt to pay for a coffee with seven fruitdrops, the cashier would refuse to accept them.

The Liberal Party senator, obviously, is one of the millions of people here, including tourists, who is not amused by the practice of accepting fruitdrops, lollipops, a stick of chewing-gum, or promissory notes in the place of small change when making a purchase. The shortage of change, particularly of coins of smaller denomination, has grown steadily worse in Italy in the past five years. Each summer the situation, probably due to tourism, becomes more acute. A foreigner in any country where he does not understand the language is likely to pay for everything with a note. At the end

of his holiday, he can either show some of the collected coins in a wishing well or fountain, or forget them and leave them in the bottom of his valise.

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Peace returns to the campus at Zambia University

Signs of conflict in Zambia between the "brash new class of intellectuals" and the "old guard"

## Letter from Zambia

A television reporter standing in front of people massing for an anti-student rally by the United National Independence Party last month told viewers he had been talking to demonstrators who "didn't have a clue what they were demonstrating about."

They had not read the students' open letter to President Kaunda and if they had, they would not have understood it because the foreign policy it covered would have been right over their heads.

The incident illustrated one of the factors that has led to the student-Government confrontation. The UNIP demonstrators are grass-root supporters, who demonstrate when they are told to and are glad to do so. They support the party, the President, and country. Largely illiterate, they represent the least educated generation of the country.

What is interesting is that the university issue moved quickly from a mass against French policy into the area of domestic Zambian politics. Sources will have it that the Cabinet is not unanimous in the tough line taken with the students. Nor is everyone convinced the campus was under the control of militants who were a threat to life and property. Nor, in the final analysis, can it all be ascribed to "foreign influence."

The controversy has again opened up rifts between party factions that had apparently been closed at the May Mulungushi general conference. However, there are other elements. Students admit to the presence of tough types on the campus, people who enjoy a fight for the sake of it.

"Uz" a university magazine not known for its mildness, issued what could be its swan-song a few days after the French Embassy demonstration before the open letter was published and the campus closed.

It demanded public hanging of the policeman who had wounded a student. It also mentioned that the magazine's editor-in-chief, Mr Fullwa, who had been one of the young men arrested on the day of protest, had recently been on a VIP trip to North Korea.

One of its articles said of the demonstration: "The battle of Lusaka was just another glaring example of class conflict. Zambian society was organised into the elite, masses, and students, so that 'it should be no surprise to those familiar with the capitalist State to find each class placed in antagonistic relation to one another.'"

Students were urged to organise themselves, for "as our numbers rose towards the 5,000 mark so the armed forces will become correspondingly more sophisticated in counter-demonstration."

What the writer forgets to mention is that the students are the coming elite and because of this feel a sense both of security and superiority over the "masses," hence some of the antagonism. What should be

questioned at this point is whether a large university built on an exclusive site outside the city, where students are seen to hold a position of privilege, is the best type of institution in a developing country.

Some experts think that a more democratic selection of students at village level would help to obliterate the sharp division between the rulers, current or future, and the ruled. The crisis has at least stimulated discussions on such points.

IF PUBLIC transport could become less of a rare commodity, productivity would improve. I have the use of my imported vehicle by the grace of an elephant. My car arrived with its indicator lights missing, someone on the Beira-Umtali run having presumably "borrowed" them.

The local garage had no spares, but the manager remembered that an elephant had sat on a similar model without squashing the lights, which are now part of my car. But for the elephant I would have had to wait two months for spares.

Waiting for spares is, however, better than waiting for a railway driver. This was the experience of passengers returning from Livingstone.

who were stranded at Sinkobosiding, about 20 miles north of the town, for more than an hour. The driver, hearing that his brother had died, had hiked back to Livingstone, leaving train and passengers to their own devices.

Bus passengers are sometimes even more unfortunate, having to wait several days, not weeks for transport to rural areas which is either delayed or full. Bus stations in city centres are virtually camps and in one a woman was found recently to have taken up permanent residence.

It turned out she was not waiting for a bus, but for house. Homes are another commodity in short supply. With the continuous flow of people from rural areas into the towns this is not surprising, any more than the sprawling "squatter" townships around the cities.

No less an authority than the Bank of Zambia has it that this migration is a permanent phenomenon and one which must be solved, so that the country's economy is not seriously disrupted. Bus passengers are hoping that turning bus shelters into homes is not one of the solutions.

Ruth Weiss

## Africans to pay more for medical aid

From PETER NIESEWAND: Salisbury, August 17

The Smith Government has served notice Rhodesia's five million African majority that they have to pay more for medical services. How much more is not yet known. But in June, 1968, the date of the last increase, African out-patient fees went up by 100 per cent and maternity fees more than trebled. Charges for Rhodesian whites will remain unchanged.

The Minister of Health, Mr McLean, told Parliament here: "All Government hospital charges are sub-economic, but some are more grossly sub-economic than others. On this basis, I think it must be obvious that it is going to be necessary for Africans to contribute more for their medical services."

Many white Rhodesians say that this is not unreasonable, because medical rates are very different for Africans and Europeans. An adult African male pays the equivalent of 25 new pence to attend an out-patient's clinic, and this includes the cost of medicines. African women and children are charged 10 new pence.

A black Rhodesian who requires hospital treatment pays a flat fee of about £2, which includes all charges, no matter how long he is in the white hospital. A black woman pays £1 and children about 50 new pence. Full maternity care, including ante- and post-natal treatment, costs an African mother £5.

By comparison a white Rhodesian is charged £2 a day for hospital accommodation but this does not include either medicines or doctors' fees, and a white family can be spending £100 on maternity fees. Judged on this basis, the increase in African medical charges might not seem unfair.

Yet it will bring hardship to many, for an African earns only a fraction of the average white salary. No figure for the average per capita income of the Rhodesian black has been published, but among subsistence farmers, who comprise the majority, this is estimated at just over £12 a year.

Even those employed in the cash economy—about 726,000 in 1970—had an annual income of about £156, compared with £1,552 for white, Asian, and mixed-blood wage-earners.

Doctors, social workers, and voluntary organisations concerned with health agree that medical fees paid by Africans are totally uneconomic, and a drain on the country's resources.

At the same time, they fear that any increase in the existing fees will result in considerable hardship and increased illness.

A doctor at Harare African hospital, which is, incidentally, the best-equipped hospital in Rhodesia, commented: "A quarter of a million Europeans cannot go on subsidising the health services for five million Africans at this level forever."

## Dawn Fraser case dismissed

Charges against a Polish seaman of raping the Australian swimmer, Dawn Fraser, were dismissed in Sydney yesterday. The magistrate said that Miss Fraser's evidence against Boleslaw Leszczynski (58), of the Polish motorship "Toni", was "not credible."

She alleged he forced her to undergo intercourse against her will in a suburban hotel.

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### PERSONAL

THE CHANGE FOR ASSOCIATION... THE CHANGE FOR ASSOCIATION... THE CHANGE FOR ASSOCIATION...

ASBESTOSWOOD ASBESTOS... ASBESTOSWOOD ASBESTOS... ASBESTOSWOOD ASBESTOS...

PREPARED BY LADY... PREPARED BY LADY... PREPARED BY LADY...

MEET SOMEONE THROUGH... MEET SOMEONE THROUGH... MEET SOMEONE THROUGH...

CAR HIRE AND PLATES... CAR HIRE AND PLATES... CAR HIRE AND PLATES...

ENJOY YOUR OWNERS... ENJOY YOUR OWNERS... ENJOY YOUR OWNERS...

A PERSONAL LOAN FROM... A PERSONAL LOAN FROM... A PERSONAL LOAN FROM...

THE COUNTY HOTEL... THE COUNTY HOTEL... THE COUNTY HOTEL...

PERSONAL SERVICE... PERSONAL SERVICE... PERSONAL SERVICE...

WHEN YOU RECEIVE A... WHEN YOU RECEIVE A... WHEN YOU RECEIVE A...

THE HELEN MILL BUREAU... THE HELEN MILL BUREAU... THE HELEN MILL BUREAU...

DARLING DO YOU LOVE... DARLING DO YOU LOVE... DARLING DO YOU LOVE...

"LET US FORGET" ASSOCIATION... "LET US FORGET" ASSOCIATION... "LET US FORGET" ASSOCIATION...

PARIS WEEKEND... PARIS WEEKEND... PARIS WEEKEND...

AFRICANA NEW YORK... AFRICANA NEW YORK... AFRICANA NEW YORK...

RELIABLE LOW-COST... RELIABLE LOW-COST... RELIABLE LOW-COST...

NOTICES... NOTICES... NOTICES...

CHREADE ROYAL HOSPITAL... CHREADE ROYAL HOSPITAL... CHREADE ROYAL HOSPITAL...

MANCHESTER CORPORATION... MANCHESTER CORPORATION... MANCHESTER CORPORATION...

حزب الامم المتحدة







## A black and white photograph of three children sitting on the floor, playing with a board game. One child is standing and moving a piece, while two others watch. The game board has various geometric shapes and patterns.

## Campaign of intimidation

**From SIMON WINCHESTER in Belfast**

The commission was now dealing with between 150 and 200 urgent inquiries each day from Belfast people needing help and advice. Most of these involved people claiming they had been forced to leave their homes because of threats and intimidation. Although the situation was marginally better yesterday, it had assumed frightening proportions on Monday the day when the civil disobedience campaign officially started.

Mr Hayes said yesterday that the worst feature of the present wave of sectarian hatred was that it was now spreading to the traditional strongholds of division and bigotry. Communities in Tullycarnett, Ballybreen, in emergency aid which was made "immediately available" last Friday. At the time it was announced that an advisory committee would be set up to discuss the best to apportion the money.

"So far there's no sign of this committee and the money has been sitting up in the Cabinet offices all the while," Mr Hayes said. "We need it right now to aid the people. The bureaucrats seem to be complicating the issue at a time when immediate relief is most urgent."

A Stormont spokesman said that the names of the bodies to be represented on the committee had been decided, but the personalities involved had not. It was hoped the

Faulkner and his new p internment and immens ness with the rebel govern in Dublin. Members of t for an hour to discuss th tion and later sent a me their leader assuring their "full and und approval" for his presen taces.

Only the recently unhol alliance betwe Paisley and Mr Craig reduced a note to Jar the pleasantries: "the em union" of loyalist whi two formed a forthrightly the names of the discuss new security in that would avert the im constitutional crisis th loyalists all fear.

**WINDSOR** council is to investigate the possibility of enforcing compulsory purchase of a row of nine, three-storey terrace houses that have stood empty since they were built seven years ago. The houses were priced at £9,000 when built, but £14,000 is now being asked. The council's planning committee wants the town clerk to investigate the introduction of a bylaw to enforce compulsory purchase of the houses built by Fairvale Constructions Ltd. in Osborne Road, Windsor.

Councillor Harry Wells, a member of the committee, said yesterday: "It's deplorable that nine three-storey houses remain empty for seven years with the critical housing shortage in Windsor ... it's simply ludicrous.

"I know one person who offered to buy when the price of empty houses was over £12,000, but the company would not sell. If they sell one as a residence then it would prevent them using the money to build more houses. They have simply been priced off the market. For £14,000 a person can buy a detached house."

**Fairvale Constructions Ltd.,** 100, Farnham Road, Farnham, Surrey, has had no comment.

A Vietnamese orphan one  
three who arrived at Heath-  
row Airport-London yester-  
day, reaches the end of the  
journey in the arms of the  
woman who has adopted her.

By **DEREK BROWN**

A spate of armed robberies in Belfast could indicate that the extremist organizations are running out of funds. More than £10,000 has been stolen by armed men in 24 hours.

There were three robberies yesterday, two of them by the same gang on post offices in the Falls district. The double robbery took place in the morning. Three masked men took £200 from the Whitlock Road sub-post office, and within five minutes held up staff and customers in the St James Park sub-post office and took £1,700.

The men were armed with a revolver and a sawn-off shotgun, but no one was fired and no one was hurt.

At lunchtime, four armed men held up the Ulster Bank branch in Ormeau Road, South Belfast. They got away in a

A police spokesman yesterday that there has been a spate of armed robbery since the latest round of violence began 10 days ago.

"In the good old days of armed robbery was an art," he said. "Clearly, it is not an art any more. It is motivated and some of the ordinary robberies. Some be done by political people are lining their own pockets a freecance basis."

If the robberies are to the funds of extremists is the money will go to the IRA, though most of the robbers have taken place in Catholic areas. If the Volunteer Force, for example, to raise money for robbery it would be directed to rob banks or post offices in the Catholic districts. It gain a double advantage.

## "Curse of Scotland"

By RIXI MARKUS

The World Championship (Bernardo Bowl) tournament has been won by the Dallas Aces (USA) for the second time. Here is a hand, played in the final against the French team (European Champions), where a small point in defence was overruled by the Americans. East dealt with North-South game.

North

♠ AKJ104  
♥ 876  
♦ 843  
♣ K4

West

♠ 87652  
♥ None  
♦ Q88  
♣ AK1093

East

♠ 876543  
♥ Q109543  
♦ Q1092  
♣ 852

South

♠ Q2  
♥ QJ3  
♦ AJ75  
♣ J876

At both tables East opened the bidding with 3H, and the French East was allowed to play there. At the other table South, for France, passed on 3H, and West passed the South (Boulogne) and 3S, which South converted to 3NT.

West led the queen of clubs and I would fancy that when dummy went down West didn't rate his chances very highly.

backward place into his in this fashion. He was opening lead with the 4 of clubs in dummy and led the diamond, finessing the 10. Declarer was surprised to find that the queen was tucked with a spade as the pieces were dropping in place. Obviously West was in hearts, which gave him 4-1, 5-1, 6-1, 7-1, 8-1, 9-1, 10-1, 11-1, 12-1. He had East 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1. He had diamonds as he would have been too strong for an evasive 3H opening. Declarer won the trick in hand and cashed the spade winners, club hearts from hand. North played a diamond to his partner, who was followed by a small 4 of West's king; and West's nothing in hand. He could only cash the ace of queen and give a club to South, enabling him to win his fourth diamond as well.

"Have you spotted the live club? Try playing nine of diamonds from dummy on the first diamond trick. Declarer will cover with the king and you will be back at West's queen, but when declarer cashes the 10 of diamonds West can go with the king and East is 10 of diamonds for an ace. Declarer has no chance to his partner. At worst play of the nine can't lose."

Safety pillows for babies become death traps when mothers put pillow cases over them, an inquest at Southport was told yesterday.

Sean Booth, aged four months, of Scott Street, Southport, suffocated when he buried his face in one of the pillow covers. In future, a written warning will be legible on the pillow.

The pillows are covered in loosely knitted cotton covers and any mother would want to cover them in something more attractive."

The pillows are made: Rotheringham Baby Crafts, Chatham. They have 54 ventilation holes to allow babies to breathe when they bury their faces in them.

But the designer, Mr George Ormerod, aged 64, a Rochdale ham director, told the inquest: "As soon as they are in use, they are safe."

He said the purpose of the object of the design is to defeat the bacteria which cause pneumonia.

"We believed that details would warn mothers of the danger, but from now on the design will be warning issued with every item."

A verdict of death by misadventure was returned.

Three of the seven Pakistanis detained after landing at Dover on Monday from a cross-Channel ferry yesterday failed in their attempt to be allowed

The Home Office said they could be returned to Zeebrugge, Belgium, by ferry. Reasons for refusing entry permits were not given. The other four detainees were allowed to stay.

motor mechanic, was demanded in custody for a week when he appeared in court at Watford yesterday charged with the murder of Janice Ersen aged 10. Her body was found in a park a week ago.

● We have been asked to make it clear that Mr Peter Bunnage aged 17, of Rose Acre, Pimlico, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, is not a suspect in the

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& 7.30-11.11 seats sold: Harold  
Pinter's "OLD TIMES" 18.7, 27, 31  
m & e.

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S. 8.15, 8.45, 9.15, 9.45  
AGATHE

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"The Hamlet." "I've nothing to  
say."—Daily Mail. "Waiting no  
to be missed."—Fin. Times.

**COMEDY.** 1930 25781. Eves. 8.15. Sat.  
8.15, 8.45, 9.15, 9.45. Sun. 8.15  
2.30 to 4.1. "Charita Pinwall, Cat  
and the Great Year."—Daily Mail.  
GREAT YEAR Toronto Frisby

**There's a Girl in My Soup**  
**LONGEST RUNNING COMEDY**

**CRITERION.** 930 32161. Air condi-  
tioned. 8.30, 8.51, 9.15 & 9.30.

**ALAN BATES in BUTLEY**  
by Simon Gray. Qr.: Harold Pinter  
EDWARD AND THE CARDS OF THE  
DELIGHTS OF TH. YR. (Eves. 8.15)

**BRURY LANE.** 836 8108  
Rps. 3.30, 4.15, 5.15, 6.15, 7.15  
& 8.15. A BUTLEY'S "SUSAN" 8.15

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"MAKES 'OH! CALIFORNIA' SEEM  
LIKE A CHILD'S PLAY."—N.Y. Times  
"FUNNIER THAN BOTH."—N.Y.T.

**LUKE OF YORKS.** 1836 81221  
8.15, 8.45, 9.15, 9.45. Thr. 8.30  
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WILFRID HYDE WHITE  
ROBERTS. "A VERY GOOD  
SUBMER."—GRIFFITH  
8.15, 8.45, 9.15, 9.45. D. Jones  
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"An evening of gorgeous looting."

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8.45, 9.15, 9.45. Sat. 8.30, 8.50

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LAUGHED LOUD AND LONG—S. Times

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**RAYMARKE.** 1930 98321. Eves. 8.15  
8.45, 9.15, 9.45. Sun. 8.15, 8.45  
ALICE GUINNESS. JEREMY BRITT  
A Voyage Round My Father  
by JOHN MORTIMER

HER MAJESTY'S (1930 1966) 7.50.  
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**FIDDLER ON THE ROOF**  
also starting *Sixth Marys*, 50 years.

KING'S HEAD, Walsingham, 01-226 1916.  
Chris Wilkinsen 1 WAS NITZKE'S  
MAIO on sexual anils. Evns. 8.30.  
Hilmer 8.30.

LYRIC (437 26861. N.O. Sat. 3.30  
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Mary MILLER and Jim HOLDEN

**HOW THE OTHER HALF LOVES**  
New Comedy by Alan Ayckbourn.  
Author of *Relatively Dead*.  
8.30. Evns. 8.30. "FUNKY".—Standard  
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**GEORGE CLINE in the BEST COMEDY**  
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**THE PHILANTHROPIST**  
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MEERNA 1248 76541. Mon. 8.40 28.55.  
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**THE NATIONAL THEATRE**  
Evns. 7.30. Mats. Thurs. & Sat. 2.15.  
Unfri. Sat. 1.30. *DANTONE'S DEATH*. A  
FIVE ACT PLAY. 19th June. 8.30.

**AMPHITRYON 38**  
Plays. 24-25 to 27. 8.30. Evns. 8.30.  
massive presence of the heretofore  
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OLD VIC. 928 7014. Thurs. 8.15 to 8.30  
**THE OCTAGON**. THEATRE. B.O. IN  
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OPEN AIR. Regent's Park. 486 2431.  
8.30. Evns. 8.30. Mats. Thurs. & Sat.  
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**OPEN SPACE** 580 4970. Members  
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**DANNY LA RUE**  
at the PALACE  
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**PALLADIUM** 1337 73731. Niny 6.15.  
Evns. 8.30. Mats. Thurs. & Sat. 3.30.  
YOUTH. CROCOD. CLIVE GUNN.  
Children's 8.30. Mats. Thurs. & Sat. 3.30.  
Unfri. Sat. 1.30. *THE LAST WORD*.  
Dec. 21. CINCERELLA. Book now.

PHOENIX 1434 96111. Mon. Thurs. 8.30  
Evns. 8.30. Mats. Thurs. & Sat. 3.30.  
4th YEAR SNASH MIT MUSICAL.

**CANTERBURY TALES**  
"RACIST. SAWDEST. MOST COORD-  
INATED. MOST COMEDIC. MOST  
SHOW IN LONDON".—Sun. Times.

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**VIVAT! VIVAT REGINA!**  
by Robert Bell with MARK OICMAN

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Evns. 8.30. Mats. Thurs. & Sat. 3.30.  
**THE BIGGEST PLAY IN LONDON!**

**THE AVENGERS**  
"Lively, bawdy, funny and com-  
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Evns. 8.30. Mats. Thurs. & Sat. 3.30.  
Old wine and have it away at

**THE PATRICK PEARSE MOT**  
FUNNIEST SHOW IN TOWN.—Obs.

QUEEN'S 734 1166. Opens Thurs.  
Aug. 26. 7.30. Mats. Thurs. & Sat. 3.30.  
JUMP!

An Kilmarlino New Comedy  
Previous Aug. 24 & 25 at 8.0.

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## CINE

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**CINE**

**AFC 1, Shaftesbury Avenue, 836 8861.** Richard Burton Is the Villain! 12.30, 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m., doublets.

**AFC 2, Shaftesbury Avenue, 836 8861.** TALES OF BEASTS AND FORTRES 10.1, 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m. Bookings.

**ACADEMY ONE, 1437 0281.** Better known as THE NAVIGATOR 12.1, 1.15, 2.15, 4.15, 6.30, 8.45.

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**OPERA & BALLET**

**COLISEUM, Sadler's Wells Theatre.**  
Tonight at 7.30  
THE NEW KATY CO.  
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**ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL 1920 5193**  
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Today at 2 and 7.30  
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LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET  
Season Titles, next to Sept. 16.  
Sept. 16 to 20, Mat. Sat. at 7.30  
Aug. 24 to 28 & Sept. 6 to 11:  
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**SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE, Rosebery**  
Ave. 1857 3070. Last wk. of  
CHITRASENA  
DANCE COMPANY OF CEYLON  
Sun at London's Royal Festival Hall  
12.30 & 8.15. 5.00 p.m. Box Office 100  
Now Book Sat., W.1. Tel. 01-499 9957

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Sun at London's Royal Festival Hall  
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ACADEMY THREE (457 88191 Kuro  
Sawa's SEVEN SAMURAI (X)  
Mifune, showing 53. 8. U.S.

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## CONCERTS

**Manchester**

Cas. Ardwick	875 1141.
Ocean Halls	Faye Dunaway
Star Big Man (A.A.)	A.T.S. 5.20, 8.15
Cas. Denham	632 9232.
THE EASTWOOD	632 9232.
Kelly's Heroes (A.I.)	Old 5.30, 8.15
MONT. Oxford Street	256 6262
THE MUSIC LOVERS (I)	2.50 and 7.30. All seats bookable
Sale (Licensed Bar)	928 0218
Cas. Army	6.20 and 8.55
Manchester Valley	8.10 (Sat. 8.55)
MANCHESTER FILM THEATRE, OXFORD STREET CROWLEY 117	
MISS NATALIE (X.I.)	B.I.O. and L.A.
THE SHINE SHOW	2.50 and 7.30
THE SHINE SHOW	2.50 and 7.30
CATON	OLD AND BRNO TRAIL
I.L.U. Children	10p. Adults 20p.
This night will be accompanied by a	
CHILD	
WILMSLOW 22266.	
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p.m. (fr. 10.40) & Mdn., Wed., Th. Sat. 2.30.	
Oxford Road.	
JUNO 2, Oxford Road. Tel. 236 2457	
The most selected here in history	
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Dustin Hoffman Face Discovery	
THE BURNING MAN	Face Discovery
1.35, 4.50, 7.45, L.C.P. 7.55	
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A farcical comedy about sex	
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GUSSES WHO? WE'VE LEARNED IN	
SCHOOL TODAY? X (Col.)	
1.35, 4.50, 7.45, L.C.P. 7.55	
Russ Meyer's sex classic	
CHERRY, NARRY AND RAQUET	
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LYTON LUXURY CINEMAS CATLEY	
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CAD' ARMY (U)	
ONE PER 5 P.M. SAT. 8.55.	
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WINOR	
Retainer 10.00 Week	
PURVIG (X)	
One per 5 p.m. Sat. 8.55.	
THEATRE ROYAL	324 8565
BORSTAL (A.I.) 4 p.m. & 8.15	
INVISIBLE SIX (A.I.) 4.30, 6.55.	
Late show Saturday 10.25 p.m.	
Telephone	483 5801

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KELLY'S HEROE (A). Props. 2.0  
S.O, 8.0, Late Fri. Sat. 11.15 p.m.

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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1033-1036.

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# £450,000 for urban aid programme

By CAMPBELL PAGE

The Home Office announced grants yesterday of £450,000 for non-capital projects under the Urban Aid programme for special social needs.

The 222 projects recommended by 93 local authorities in England and Wales will be aided by a 75 per cent grant from the Exchequer in cases for up to five years.

Among English counties, Durham is getting a recurrent grant of £10,000 for family planning services. The Home Office is spending £24,000 on 18 projects proposed by 11 county councils, £180,000 on 64 projects proposed by 22 London authorities, £250,000 on 124 projects proposed by 46 county boroughs, and £23,000 on 13 projects proposed by 13 Welsh authorities.

Expenditure on health and welfare projects will amount to £258,000, on educational projects to £50,000, and on housing aid centres to £50,000. The remaining £82,000 will be spent on community projects including advice centres, youth schemes, adventure play-grounds, preschool play groups, and other play schemes.

A Welsh Correspondent writes: A project on juvenile delinquency, and help for landladies who take in patients from a Denbighshire psychiatric hospital, are among schemes costing over £23,000, which have been approved for Wales. Thirteen projects proposed by Welsh local authorities will receive aid.

Some £60,000 a year will be used by the Cardiff city council for a project on juvenile delinquency. An action group of teachers and social workers has been pressing for some time for staff and money to tackle this problem.

In Denbighshire, £5,000 will be given to landladies to improve fire precautions. These landladies are boarding houses for former patients of the North Wales Psychiatric Hospital, and considerable concern was voiced recently about unsuitable conditions at some of the houses.

In Flintshire, urban aid grants will be used to train volunteers for a daily visiting service to elderly people living alone in the Connah's Quay area. In Pembrokeshire, six play groups are to be formed in Pembroke Dock. Lectures and group discussions are also to be arranged for parents on all aspects of child care.

The family planning service in Wales also gets much needed help. It is to be extended in Cardiff, Swansea, Carmarthen, and Monmouth, with special emphasis on domiciliary visits.

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# Home loans for the single

By Malcolm Stuart

ALTHOUGH the Greater London Council relaxed its mortgage rules yesterday, its leader, Sir Desmond Plummer, admitted it will take a £2,000-a-year income to qualify for a £5,000 advance.

The GLC offers 100 per cent mortgages but Shelter, the homeless campaigner, estimates that the average price of a Victorian terrace house is now between £5,500 and £6,000.

"This is in a mixed area that may or may not come up in the world—like East Ham or Stoke Newington," said Shelter. "Once there is a hint that an area is becoming smart, the prices shoot up."

Building societies now have so much money that fewer people are turning to the GLC. That is why the council announced yesterday it would extend its mortgage scheme to flats and maisonettes of all ages and would grant mortgages to single people.

"We particularly want to help middle-aged men and women living alone in rented accommodation," said Sir

Desmond. But there would be no relaxation in the council's rule that monthly repayments should not exceed one fifth of the borrower's income.

"Under the previous administration there was no income rule and this brought about a lot of failures," said Sir Desmond, who is leader of the Conservative majority. The council is prepared to take a wife's earnings into full account but will not consider a mortgage to people earning less than £30 a week. An income of £38 a week or £2,000 a year is necessary for a £5,000 mortgage.

"Incomes are rising as well as prices. A lot of women are earning that sort of money now," said Sir Desmond. The most recent survey of office salaries by the Alfred Marks employment bureau said that £2,000 a year is now the figure that top executive secretaries aspire to, but most are in their 30s before reaching this salary.

"Well, cheaper, older houses do seem to be available in some areas. And we are the people to help here. People usually come to us after they have been turned down by building societies and borough councils."

The GLC has £55 millions available for mortgages to residents of London in this financial year. The general rule of thumb is that mortgages should not exceed 2½ to three times the borrower's annual income. In practical terms this means a repayment equal to one week's pay every month.

A spokesman for the Building Societies Association said: "Conditions are now as good as they are ever likely to get. Old houses generally are regarded in a much more favourable light now and single people with the right income have no great difficulty in getting help from us."

The maximum figure for a

GLC loan is £7,500 which is now the sum required for a two-bedroom post-war maisonette in most London suburbs. Some building societies believe that the GLC schemes largely help professional people to "pioneer" Victorian areas of London which then become too expensive for working class people to live in.

The "smart" demand has turned from Georgian buildings to bow-windowed houses built for clerks in the 1890s. Forest Hill and Sydenham in South London are areas being heavily pioneered on GLC mortgages.

The council admits that this may happen but feels that the trend is not bad if it prevents an area of solid houses from deteriorating into slums. And it believes that one group which might be attracted by an easy mortgage scheme are sitting, controlled tenants, whose landlords would probably sell at a low figure. But Shelter fears the scheme will be of little help to London's poorly housed families.

# Campaign for Market 'like mobile circus'

By DENNIS BARKER

Common Market guerrilla warfare has turned into open conflict. This came officially yesterday from Mr David Mudd, Conservative MP for Falmouth and Camborne. He used the announcement of the Common Market Safeguards Campaign's new plans—a London rally in October, other rallies in Bristol and Edinburgh—to criticise the technique the pro-Marketisers have used so far.

Mr Mudd said the campaign of the European Movement in Western Cornwall had been "almost a travelling circus." Meetings were held with no occasion to talk economics and then doing so. He thought that the publication of the Government's White Paper there were signs that world food prices were coming down, refuting the Government's assumption that they would remain high. The impact of President Nixon's steps to protect the dollar would mean we could hear even less the burden on our balance of payments that would be caused by EEC entry.

But, as Mr Jay said, the occasion was one to discuss the campaign details not the arguments. The first white of grapes will be on September 27, when the Midlands division of the National Union of Mineworkers will be addressed by Mr Jay. There will be a rally in Edinburgh on September 29. The Labour Committee for Safeguards on the Common Market will hold a pre-Labour Conference on October 3, at which Lord Shinnell will be chairman.

The major event, however, will be at Trafalgar Square on Sunday, October 24. This is being organised by a new "umbrella" committee covering all the anti-Common Market groups, the National Anti-Common Market Demonstration Committee.

Mr Mudd even managed to be sour about some of the European Movement's "join-in-is-fun" literature, an example of which, showing a smiling young woman, was waved about at yesterday's press conference. "Britain will ride into Europe on the over-developed hump of a bikini girl," glared Mr Mudd. This, apparently, could be very true, since as one of the real effects of the so-called box of delights that would turn out to be a Pandora's box would (no shortage of analogies) be political impotence.

The latest recruit to the Common Market Safeguards Campaign (which, broadly, opposes entry except on terms that would be unacceptable to the Six), is Mr Edward Taylor, Conservative MP for Glasgow Cathcart, who resigned as a Government Minister on the Market issue. Yesterday he savaged the entry of Europe being "fun." He said: "Everyone who takes part in this campaign must realise this is not in any way a fun issue but a desperately serious issue. He thought it vital that both arguments were put to the people."

Mr Douglas Jay, chairman of

the campaign, kept saying that this was no occasion to talk economics and then doing so. He thought that the publication of the Government's White Paper there were signs that world food prices were coming down, refuting the Government's assumption that they would remain high. The impact of President Nixon's steps to protect the dollar would mean we could hear even less the burden on our balance of payments that would be caused by EEC entry.

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# Goodbye to all that...

LORD ROBENS, who was a Labour MP for 15 years and Minister of Labour in 1951, has admitted that he is no longer a socialist.

The former National Coal Board chairman, now chairman of Vickers, said in a recorded Anglia Television interview to be seen on September 13: "I am not a socialist. A socialist is a person who believes that the State should own the whole of the means of production, distribution, and exchange and in my teens I believed that was right."

"I don't believe that is right today. I think it's a nonsense, I don't think it is real and I believe that over 90 per cent of the people who vote Labour believe it to be unreal as well."

Lord Robens, who is 61, said: "The truth as I see it is that party politics are tearing this country apart. Every third election, he thought, people should vote for programmes rather than parties. "What is required is a careful analysis as to what is best done by public ownership, what is best done by private enterprise, and then this widening sandwich in the middle."

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# Oilmen agree in sea gas dispute

Two oil companies have reached agreement in the legal battle over their search for North Sea gas. The High Court was told yesterday.

Amoco (UK) Exploration Company had sought an order that Total Oil Marine should honour a bargain to share information obtained from test wells drilled by the two companies. Yesterday, Mr Sydney Templeman QC for Amoco, told Mr Justice Brightman: "The parties have reached an amicable agreement."

Reading a prepared statement, Mr Templeman said that the dispute had arisen out of a difference of opinion on the interpretation of two well trade agreements which gave Amoco an option to obtain data from one of Total's recently opened North Sea wells. The difference concerned the frequency of supply of data.

Mr Sam Silkin, QC for Total, confirmed the agreement. After the hearing, Amoco's solicitors declined to say whether or not Amoco had been given the information it had sought from Total.

Last Wednesday, Mr Templeman said that Amoco claimed they had a binding agreement with Total for the exchange of information about exploratory wells. Amoco had passed on their information but Total had not.

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"Mr. Piff Fawcett, thank you  
Thank you."

هكذا من الأهل



# WOMAN'S GUARDIAN

Tug of love cases • Adventure playground • New lines

## Hermit seeks angel

by John G. Kemp

FRIENDS now and again suggest that my long standing and rather unusual problem could be solved by an advertisement. How to make it terse, yet sufficiently explicit to eliminate random replies but not intimidate possibly useful ones? I had thought of sending a letter or an article to one of the nicer periodicals, but then it seemed to me its theme would be considered too individual and isolated to merit publication.

This idea was revived by an article dealing with the experiences of some people of mature age seeking companionship through the "social ads." These were people who can see, hear, and travel about on their own, and if advertising their need was to little purpose, what could it serve me, who can do none of these things?

Since the Second World War I have lived in this home for the blind in London, pursuing my trade of basket-making, always free to leave when I feel elsewhere to go, and that was my object from the outset. Living as one of a group of the disabled is physically cramping, mentally and socially isolating for me, anyway, although a few outside friends have been made and a weekly or fortnightly visit may be expected from one or another.

My first objective was a small house and workshop in the country, I like making baskets and need the bodily activity. I could then offer accommodation to a companion who would make the place homely. A more intimate relation was not in the forefront of my mind.

It is about 20 years since, with help from a friend on the spot and my small capital, a cottage was bought in remote Gloucestershire, where I had lived and worked after being blitzed out of London. Yes, without vacant possession, but only because the tenants disliked the house and wished to move, they didn't move, and were not at all nice. After five years I sold to our tenants. My partner by then had left the district after an illness, and there was no one at hand to fight a case for possession.

**Dissension**

Freed for a fresh venture, I approached a small farming group of religious converts and their families already known to me. They received me cordially and agreed to build me a bungalow on their land. It was understood the community would be my social environment, although I was not of their creed. A person to whom the group owed deference let it be known that he also favoured the idea, and thought it time the community justified its existence in some such way.

The community fell into dissension within itself and with its spiritual mentors, and I could not get a straight yes or no about the bungalow. Four years passed, then a letter came to announce the death of the community's benefactress and that our arrangement was at an end. No explanation offered. Who or what went wrong, I never ascertained.

The next move was an advertisement to the effect: "Blind basket-maker, also deaf, but active, independent, seeks board and lodging in rural West Country. Some companionship." This might at last start things off. A friend living in those parts was to sift the avalanche and follow up. I would have chosen a local paper, but she thought the journal of her quiet sect a better medium.

There was, I think, just one reply: a lady recently widowed and needing a purpose in life, offered to find a house and make a home for us both. We met at my friend's home. First impressions: delightful. She took readily to the way of talking to me, an adaptation of the deaf alphabet. We were about the same height and build (I am a five-foot four light-weight), a good point if she was to be my future guide.

**Lady's resolve**

In the course of correspondence, however, it became sadly obvious we had little else in common, and that the lady's resolve was wilting. I'd mentioned the extent to which I could help if a price was above her stated limit. She reported houses viewed well below her top and liked very much, but all were so far from her friends. Her purpose appeared firmer in one frightful particular, to want me from my carnivorous and pipe-smoking way of life. I saw the thing through as far as it would go, and then when the lady decided, without asking my views, that we were to take a flat in "a strictly vegetarian and non-smoking" guest house, adding, "your idea of a house of our own is adventurous and heroic, but it's not me." I closed down.

These are only the major engagements of a campaign begun in my young and innocent forties, and which finds me now still in the field and hoping still for a way out from an environment which grows inevitably more institutional and enclosed as time wears on. Quite a nice place of its kind, but... well, it's not me.

The home has existed long enough now for local interest to fade, and people with time to spare do not seem, as they used, to drop in to do little things for the residents—read, chat, or shop. As for me, the friends and outside contacts slowly made over the years marry, move away, or fade out. Many days can pass before a letter gets adequately read, or my typing is checked.

So the dream is still of a little home and garden in the country, and an angel in the house for company, a reasonably sophisticated and literate one able to integrate with the local life, and perhaps having a practical interest in the crafts.

Being this hermit's companion would not preclude other employment. He needs no help when on familiar ground or at quiet times, likes to discuss current affairs with people who may know more about them. He does not ask for a saint: a secular angel would do.



IN THE TUG-OF-LOVE SEVENTIES, public opinion seems to have swung right against the natural mother in favour of the foster mother. There are calls for an inquiry and a change in the law concerning fostered children. The real mother, in popular imagination, has become the wicked fairy, and the wicked witch is "the Authority"—the children's department. Local authorities have said little, but some of them are naturally embittered by what they see as the unfairness of the public, and the media.

I know from experience how many devoted and caring children's officers there are, and discussed this problem with one of the most outstanding of them, Denis Allen, now director of social services for East Sussex County Council. I first met him when I was writing a book about Peter Lloyd Jeffcock, the 39-year-old ex-public school bachelor, estate manager in Horley, Surrey, who was entrusted with the care of 12 foster children. It was Denis Allen, then a senior children's officer with the LCC who made the decision because, he said: "Jeffcock was able to give them love and attention. We felt that was the only thing that mattered. If children are deprived of individual love they grow up incapable of giving love to their own children."

Of course, one makes mistakes. I once made a mistake in the way I once made a mistake in the way I told Mark—I now believe in the wrong way at the wrong time—how his mother had been found wandering in her nightdress on a railway station and taken to a mental home. Mark became delinquent after that; no foster home could hold him. In the end I took him home to his wife. He is all right now and is doing well. But I have never forgotten my mistake.

"A few dramatic situations hit the headlines and people say this should not be allowed to happen, therefore we must change the law. It is a fallacy. In the area of human relations, you cannot legislate to prevent pain."

## Foster-mothers shouldn't complain

DENIS ALLEN, director of social services for East Sussex, talks to OLGA FRANKLIN

well. But I have never forgotten my mistake. The trouble is that the so-called tug-of-love situation is not just one situation: it is always different. There isn't a prototype case. I think many foster-parents do take children because they have got a lot of affection to give and this is a very wholesome thing. There are some foster-parents who take children because they think they've got something to give but also because they have got their own needs still unsatisfied. Maybe they're at loggerheads with a husband, disappointed in their own children, or the wife is looking for some sort of compensation. I'm not saying they are the majority. The majority are capable of being sufficiently objective not to get over-involved.

### Cold freeze

"I do know from my own knowledge, where there is an over-involvement, usually on the part of the foster-mother, seldom the foster-father, which clouds her judgment, this in itself pushes her to freeze out the natural parent. If the real mother wants to get rid of the child, she offers it for adoption, never fostering. How well fostering works out depends at least as much on the foster mother's willingness to keep the parent's image in front of the child as upon the real parent. Even from an early age, it depends on what the child has been told. If the child has been told 'your mother is worthless and she will never come to see you,' then the child will naturally look upon the foster mother as the mother-substitute."

"If the child has been told, 'you are living with us until your mother can provide for you and it may be years and we love you but in the long run you will go back to your real

mother'; then all is well. Many foster-parents do say this to the child but not without the mother maintaining contact. There must be concrete contact and the success of that depends on the foster-mother's willingness to have the mother's contact and to help the child think of his mother as a good mother."

"Often it is just not possible to reveal the whole story because there must be absolute confidentiality as with a doctor. Often the foster-mother will tell a reporter of course the real mother never comes in see her" mentally convincing herself this is true.

"And where a mother has no contact at all, the law provides that the local authority can assume the rights of the natural parent. In the cases which I have known, I have seen that we were in the position to resist the real mother. I recall one mother who abandoned her child because she couldn't cope, and we received the child into care and boarded him out with foster-parents. Eight years later, she came back, saying she was now married and wanted the child back, but in the meantime we had assumed her parental rights giving us legal control and after talking it over with the foster-mother, real mother and her husband, we made it clear we would not let her have the child back. It was then open to her to take the case to court. In fact she was sufficiently convinced of the rightness of our point of view, that she never did."

"I know the public and the media do not fully know all this. Even some MPs who advocate changes in the law are not sufficiently aware of what the present law provides. The facts are these: where children are placed in care (not placed privately) and are abandoned by the real mother for one year—one year's complete absence—we as the local authority can assume legal rights and having done that

the parent cannot demand the child back.

"Often, of course, a case is taken out of our control. A foster-parent might take High Court proceedings. There might be a two-year delay. I remember one case where it took two years by which time much damage had been done to the child, and the local people were up in arms without understanding that we were powerless to prevent any handing-over of the child."

### Always pain

"A lot of tug-of-love situations involve people who have put so much personal investment in it and are so dependent on what they get back from the child, that sometimes it is their own loss they cannot tolerate. I do not mean financial but emotional investment. The money does not play a part. In East Sussex the top rate we pay is £7 a week to foster-parents. That must include some overheads as well and we would only pay that where the child made special demands or did a lot of damage."

"There is always pain involved: often I knew I was breaking the foster-mother's heart; even in cases where I was asked to remove the child I knew I was doing something painful because the foster-parents felt they'd failed if they could not cope and they knew the child must suffer and they'd wanted to succeed and give the child love. It is always difficult to know whose rights should come first or to know what's best for the child. You can't know! You can only tell ten years later. You just do the best you can."

"A good foster-mother is one who doesn't pretend, who doesn't for instance pretend her own home or husband or marriage is perfect. In

fact, a woman living in the real world and not a dream one."

"The trouble is a few dramatic situations hit the headlines and people say 'this should not be allowed to happen, therefore we must change the law.' It is a fallacy. A change in the law does not necessarily improve things. In the area of human relations, you cannot legislate to prevent pain. It is not possible. What we do need is a legal framework which is flexible enough to apply different remedies to different cases and provide quick solutions. In fact, instead of the High Court and long delays, I'd like to see a Family Court with powers to take quick decisions."

I think that Denis Allen will have some valuable evidence to give to the Houghton Committee now considering their report not only on adoption but also, by public demand, on fostering. As a little boy Denis and his brothers also lost their home for some years and were fostered out very happily. In the war, working as a cable clerk with Cable & Wireless, he became interested in helping child refugees from Hitler's Germany. When the war ended, he became a children's officer with the LCC.

What does Denis Allen seek in finding good foster-parents? "I look for people who feel they have fulfilled themselves. By that I mean people who are satisfied. You can tell by what they contribute to people around them. You judge by their personality. People who, on the whole, complain, are not satisfied people."

That's why I say good foster-mothers can actually help to teach the real mother how to be a good one in future. How to be firm and kind and loving instead of one day bringing a child expensive presents and next day abandoning it. Many natural mothers learn to be grateful to the foster-mother who has been their best friend."



## Misadventure

by LAURA GRIMOND



I ONCE SNEERED at adventure playgrounds, comparing their concrete and asphalt amenities with the delights of climbing real trees. But now, since visiting the Handsworth adventure playground, I take it all back.

Here in a seedy Birmingham slum is the kind of paradise no child of any age could resist, and for three years now it has been pub, club, fairground, and home from home to hundreds of children who probably need such a refuge as much as any in Britain.

The first most obvious thing about it is its size: space is always exhilarating to children. Then it has real trees, not miserable architects' mock-ups, a great high mound of earth fit for the king-of-the-castle instead of a miserable dunghill made for rocks to crow on, to say nothing of huts to play houses in, places to paint, and plenty of enticing junk. There is life here and space and mystery, green shade and green leaves. Best of all, it is run by people who seem to know how to make friends with young people, how to offer them fun and security but also opportunities to help one another.

How did it start? In 1967 local parents, social workers, and people from Birmingham University realised the need. With help from IFS and Handsworth Community Venture, they acquired the site, cleared it of rubble, and by July, 1968, it was open.

In an area where multi-occupation is normal and overcrowding rife (a survey in Handsworth found a family with eight children living in a single room 12ft by 9ft), imagine the luxury of plenty of room, a place where children can run and jump, actually climb trees, swing from ropes, go over assault courses or, if they prefer, build

or paint or play table tennis (the playground's table tennis team have just become Birmingham youth club champions).

Thanks to a grant from Christian Aid a permanent leader, Mrs Diana Newton, was appointed who not only recruited volunteers to keep the playground suitably staffed during all its seven days a week, but also made it the centre of much needed communal and recreational activity. Clubs sprang up, a weight-lifting club, a football team run by local fathers, a play group for under-fives now patronised by mothers of many nationalities.

These developments have prompted the formation of a second play group—another product of joint effort by Mrs Newton and Bob Holman (one-time child care officer, now lecturer in social work at Birmingham University) and also a day-care centre where some of the many mothers in need can leave their children all day while they work, or for shorter periods in order to relieve the load in overcrowded homes where younger members of big families may otherwise spend most of their waking, as well as their sleeping, lives caged in a cot.

It is rare to be able to write with enthusiasm about places like these but, unfortunately, there is an unhappy ending ahead. The adventure playground has not to move: the site with its forest trees is wanted for a primary school. The fact that the school is just as much needed doesn't make it any better. It is rather like pulling down St Paul's Cathedral because we want a new teaching hospital. How tragic they couldn't find somewhere else to place some of the crumbling housing in Soho Handsworth for instance, rather than destroy a children's paradise.

## About the house

by Diana Pollock

WE ARE a sadly underlit nation. The average 1,100 sq. ft. three-bedroom house is still fitted with no more than 10 light outlets. In fact we are hung up in the past when electricity was a new and expensive toy. Most homes only spend £3 a year on lighting. The money saved on using 40-watt bulbs on the stairs (making unit steps and corners an accident hazard) and switching off lights is less than the household budget for iced lollies. It only costs 1p of electricity to light a 60-watt bulb for 19 hours, 100-watt bulb for 13 hours, or a 5ft. 50-watt fluorescent tube for 14 hours—the tube giving three times as much light as a 100-watt bulb. (The Electricity Council has produced an excellent full-colour leaflet about home lighting to help anyone considering lighting a new house, saving any conversion, or just reacquainting—a good time to instal new light outlets. "Lighting Your Home" costs 20p from electricity showrooms or from the Electricity Council, Marketing Dept., 1 Charing Cross, London SW1A 2DS. Should anyone want to know about electric living, Anthony Eyers's "Home Electricity" (Pelham Books, £1.75), has been my own electric bible ever since it was published in 1969.

### Wall units

FITTED CUPBOARDS not only look pleasant in a kitchen, they are a sensible use of space. Solart's (better known till now for their curtain tracks and pelmets) have a mail order service of attractive—both price and looks—pine kitchen fittings. Fronts are panelled or louvered and all units are knock-down, coming in flat cartons with assembly instructions, a choice of round brass, white china, or brass drop-ring handles, and Warerite tops white and five colours colour. The basic floor unit, 30in. high, 21in. deep, and with black kick-strip base, costs £8.25. With one shelf £9.40. Basic wall unit with two shelves is 30in. high, 21in. wide, and 12in. deep, price £9.

With the order form all the components are clearly illustrated. You decide what you need. There are sink units, drawers of glass-clear styrene, or slide on black kick-strip base, covered wire. You can see the units at the two Solarto showrooms—230 Fulham Road, London SW 1 (01-352 1491) or Commerce Way, Lancing, Sussex (Lancing 2841), from whom the brochures and order forms also come.

### Kitchen scales

SALTER'S Lightline 21 kitchen scales is of Swedish design, with white base, and smoke-coloured scoop—all plastic. The scoop can hold a plate, and its sharp angles are excellent pourers. The dial is marked with kilos/grammes as well as lb/oz—useful for creeping measurement or for recipes gathered on holidays abroad. It is 4in. high, 3in. and 8-1/2in. deep, carries a two-year guarantee, and costs £3.60 from the kitchenware departments of most large shops.

### Bath crystals

RADOX bath crystals are made in three nice smells, Bouquet, Pine and Cologne, each costing 28p for 538 grammes, in the usual plain pack. The manufacturers are now offering a simple, inoffensive stopper top jar in ivory coloured polythene for the same price—full. Meaning you get one lot of salts free—or the jar for nothing, depending on how you look at it. The jar is 7 inches high and can be bought from most chemists.



## The American era

In his Inaugural on January 20, 1961, President Kennedy said: "Let every nation know, whether it wish us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and success of liberty."

In his television broadcast on Sunday last, President Nixon said: "At the end of World War Two the economies of the major industrial nations of Europe and Asia were shattered. To help them get on their feet and to protect their freedom, the United States has provided \$143,000 millions in foreign aid. That was the right thing for us to do. Today, largely with our help, they have regained their vitality and have become strong competitors. Now that other nations are economically strong the time has come for them to hear their fair share of the burden of defending freedom around the world."

In his Inaugural President Kennedy said: "To those people in the huts and villages of half the globe struggling to break the bonds of mass misery, we pledge our best efforts to help them help themselves, for whatever period is required—not because the Communists are doing it, not because we seek their votes, but because it is right."

On Sunday night President Nixon said: "I have ordered a 10 per cent cut in foreign economic aid."

So what has happened? Well, ten years have happened, and President Nixon is entitled to draw attention to the recovery of fortunes in the war-torn countries of Europe and Asia. It is a minor irony that the two currencies whose revaluation was most needed to help the dollar in its distress of the past year were the Deutschmark and the yen, symbols of the strength of America's two defeated enemies of the Second World War.

Mr Nixon's cheerful American competitiveness sounds fine when applied to Germany or Japan. But what of the people "in the huts and villages of half the globe," who were promised aid "for whatever period is required"? In spite of the staggering generosity of United States aid over a quarter of a century the misery of the underdeveloped countries remains as a scar on the conscience of the world. If anyone doubts that, the current situation in India is a reminder of that half-globe's continuing need.

This is not the moment for anti-Americanism. It is a time when the world must examine its relations with America. The United States, for a dozen different and mixed motives, is drawing in on

itself. Americans are doubting not only whether they want to be the world's policeman—or even a member of the force. Some of them are not at all sure that they want to be the world's banker or the helper of its least fortunate peoples. Hasn't Uncle Sam enough problems of his own to spend the greenbacks on, for God's sake?

This is not just the isolationism of the thirties, though doubtless there are streaks of isolationist thinking in the mood of America today. That mood comes not only from the Mid-West, but from the academic and communications liberals of the East and West coasts whom the Vice-President so hates. It emerges in such diverse forms as the Mansfield amendment on US forces in Europe and in Congressional resistance to the RB211 rescue operation.

The largest single cause, of course, is the Vietnam war. Some Americans hate it as immoral, some hate the military defeat, some hate the rest of the world for failing to back the United States, and some have simply concluded that there and elsewhere President Kennedy's defenders of freedom have outstayed their welcome. For these and other reasons a large number of Americans are saying "Never again."

Many people, in Britain and elsewhere, will say "Amen" to that. But this is too simple. America's gradual disengagement, her return to a more single-minded pursuit of her own interests, will leave more problems than it solves. For those who see American aid as dollar imperialism and the democratic alliances in Europe and Asia which America has underpinned as capitalist militarism, the partial disengagement will be welcome. But for those of us who see a world in which the United Nations is still too weak and divided to replace military alliances, and in which too few other nations are prepared to take on part of America's burden in helping millions of starving people, the drift towards disengagement will produce a slight feeling of chill.

In that chillier new world Britain's entry into Europe and the stronger economy it promises is a necessary protection for the living standards of our own people and offers some hope of being able to do more for the unfortunate in other countries. But it surely also remains in the interests of Britain, Europe, and the rest of the free world to let the Americans know that they have not outstayed their welcome. The American era, for all its faults and blunders, has been one of unprecedented generosity, and the world will regret it more as time passes.

## Malta at the bargaining table

Malta's intentions on the future of its military bases are no clearer as a result of the Governor-General's speech from the throne. The news that Malta is running out of ready cash does little more than introduce a new stage in the bargaining. This and the revelation that negotiations with Britain are still continuing constituted a step down from Mr Mintoff's earlier stance. But there is little doubt that he is still hanging out for Britain and NATO to improve their offer. He should hear in mind that Britain is not going to go to any extreme to keep non-NATO forces out of Malta.

Mr Mintoff would do well to consider carefully before taking on either of the two main alternatives—Libya and the Soviet Union. His government is determined to be non-aligned, and on that score Libyan investment would be preferable to any Soviet offer. The speech from the throne paid tribute to Libya's support. But while Libya might provide aid, would this produce employment? Would not the bases still be up for use? President Gaddafi's impetuous behaviour has been questioned by his fellow Arabs. Does this

source of funds offer reliable long-term prospects?

The visits by the Soviet Ambassador and the implied hint that the Soviet Union might take over Britain's bases are fair enough bargaining tactics. Malta has little but strategic natural resources to use to squeeze out that little extra at the bargaining table. But a Soviet presence would put an end to any pretensions of non-alignment. There are financial details to be considered too. How much would the Soviet Union pay in hard cash? Would the income from tourism decline? Has Malta considered the long-term political implications in terms of Soviet intentions in the Mediterranean?

Mr Mintoff's first task should be to assess the real effect on Malta's income of taking on Libyan or Soviet help. The second should be to feed into the equation the problems of getting acquainted with the devil he does not know. And then he ought to compare the answer with what Britain and NATO have to offer. It will probably benefit Malta most to negotiate seriously with Britain, because its joint offer with NATO coincides most with Malta's own interests.

## Oh for a giant gooseberry

August, as is well known, is variously wicked, wet, sometimes sweltering, and generally unwholesome. It is a month that fails to inspire. The poets are transported by April, May and June, but a certain apathy sets in during July, culminating in darker thoughts. For Byron August marked the onset of winter. Browning found August past surprises, and an American lady poet, Bernice Leshia Kenyon, has advised, "Never return in August to what you love." Only Auden (as one recalls) could find much to celebrate, declaring with some measure of warmth that August is far the people.

A somewhat dismal reputation is epitomised in the term "the silly season." This, the indispensable Dr Ebenezer Brewer (or his successor) as defined in his Dictionary of Phrase and Fable as "an unwholesome journalistic expression for part of the year when through lack of news the papers had to fill their columns with trivial items—such as news of giant gooseberries and sea serpents."

Here we may begin to question the justice

of August's bad name. Brewer himself uses the past tense, and says the silly season is obsolescent. Indeed it is. When were we last short of news in August? Ulster has been a guaranteed supply of bad news every year since 1969. And going back through the 1960s (never mind 1914 and 1939), August produced the Berlin Wall in 1961, the Great Train Robbery in 1963, the Gulf of Tonkin incident in 1964, the Los Angeles riots in 1965, the murder of three London policemen and a Cabinet reshuffle in 1966. Cabinet changes again in 1967, the invasion of Czechoslovakia (not in mention the chance of Spinn Agnew as Nixon's running mate) in 1968, and in 1969 the devaluation of the franc, a little local war on the Sino-Soviet frontier, and the Arab hijacking of a Boeing 707. In 1970 the new Tory Ministers were playing themselves in, there were strikes, and the Arab-Israeli ceasefire. What with Ulster (again) and the dollar in disarray August 1971 is just about up to expectations. No wonder the Loch Ness monster has gone out of business. The silly season is not what it was.

## A COUNTRY DIARY

OXFORDSHIRE: The drunkenly warring English road, whose praises Chesterton sang, presumably started life as a meandering footpath, and I have always assumed that the disregard of the Euclidean principle that a straight line is the shortest distance between any two points had some logical explanation. Puddly patches, uneven ground, large trees and thorny bushes encountered by the pioneer path-opener have always seemed acceptable explanations for deviations which now still wander round non-existent obstacles. But lately I have begun to have second thoughts. In the first place I have noticed that the well-worn footpath which crosses The Playing-Field (our little town's ancient name for its large, enclosed green) does not follow a direct diagonal, but makes the traverse in a gentle arc. Since a rent of three-barbed arrows was being paid for this "Playing-Field" in 1448, it is unlikely that any of the obstacles listed above have existed since that date. Secondly, I have, within the past few weeks, created a new personal footpath on virgin ground, from my garden through the meadow down into the weed-infested and bird-haunted corner by the spring. Now, after about 10 expeditions to and fro daily, the path is well marked; but in spite of a dead straight fence to guide me, it is now claimed that I do not make a point-to-point transit—there are several slight but definite wiggles. My new theory is that diversions such as the constituents of the herbage below, the activities in the limes above, with numerous glances at the landscape in all directions, prevents one from keeping a steadfast eye on the target, and without benefit of visual aids one's feet are simply left to pick the easiest course.

W. D. CAMPBELL.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A gamble the workers lose

Sir,—The Terry Coleman interview with Harold Lever (August 14) on the latter's view of becoming a millionaire through stock exchange dealings: "He never feels the slightest guilt. After all, he never deprives anyone except other well-to-do people."

I suppose Mr Lever would consider me an irresponsible agitator if I shouted "What about the workers?" Can he really believe that fairy tale, or

is his tongue through his cheek—or has he been misreported? Where does he think all that surplus wealth comes from that he shares with his fellow owners of capital? A gooseberry hush? If he was seeking to justify gambling on horses or the roulette wheel his argument would be valid—punters, on masse, break even, less running expenses. But the punters in this capitalist game break far better than even. And if some-

one gains, then someone else has to lose. Guess who? The people who do not own capital. If that is really a member of the Labour Party Shadow Cabinet talking, then what price socialism?—Yours etc.

David Spreckley,  
Chairman,  
Industrial Common  
Ownership Movement,  
8 Churton Street,  
London SW 1.

### Too late with the message

Sir,—Your recent assertion that "Unionists" must accept that the Protestant gunmen no less (than the IRA) have to be disarmed" is a little belated. If the Guardian and others of the liberal press had hammered home that message 18 months ago, the British Government might have felt bound to insist on fairer army action in Northern Ireland.

Instead after a week's "coverage" the gun clubs and the large numbers of weapons in Protestant hands were for the most part ignored, and almost no voice was raised against the army's new orders of wholesale arm searches—almost all in Catholic areas.

That decision—a sell out to the "law and order" Unionist wing when the IRA were fighting amongst themselves—was so blatantly one-sided that no mat-

ter how impeccably the orders might have been carried out and no matter what paper reforms went through Stormont, the army's claim to impartiality was seen to be untrue in practice.

It has been the same story with internment. Simon Winchester states that the army would like to intern extremist Protestant leaders—"it just considered it bad tactics to detain men of both political persuasions at the same time."

Instead of facing the inevitable trouble from the extremist Protestant groups in the beginning and thus gaining the support of the Catholic population and depriving the IRA of support, it has been thought better to follow policies which made a return to full scale IRA militancy and terrorism virtually certain.

Your constant lectures to Mr Lynch do not make very edifying listening after your virtual silence on this issue.—Yours sincerely,

G. A. Windle,  
53 Claude Road,  
Manchester 21.

Sir,—You may be right or wrong in your opinion that Northern Ireland can, or should, survive. This is a matter on which there can be two views. There can, however, only be one view on the question of imprisonment without trial, and I am quite appalled at your attempts to justify it. Your attitude is particularly depressing as it is so out of character.—Yours faithfully,

J. C. Wetherell,  
14 Coomba Place,  
Oadby, Leicester.

### Hapless in Gaza today

Sir,—In 1967 the Israeli Army occupied the Gaza Strip and has since maintained control by strict military rule. The Palestinian inhabitants have shown their rejection of Israeli occupation with strong resistance, both by violent and non-violent means, which deserve more respect than given by your correspondent Walter Schwarz.

The report on conditions in Gaza by Jack Bruce-Gardyne, in August 16, underlines the frightening disregard for the feelings of the Palestinian inhabitants.

Against the background of more than 3,700 hours under curfew during 1970, the Gazans have shown strong support for the resistance movement, usually reflected in reports published in the international press. The strike last weekend in Gaza was created out of a popular movement.

The methods used by occupation troops to break the strike, namely the shutting down of the top shops, must have appalled all who support the labour movement in Britain. And the announcement by the Israeli authorities that these shops, which provide a livelihood for Gazans, will be permanently closed, and the withdrawal of tax licence plates, is a technique of intimidation which shows appalling disrespect for civil and human rights.—Yours faithfully,

Aziz Yafi,  
Editor,  
Free Palestine,  
PO Box 492,  
London SW 1.



Sir,—What a shame that Richard Neville's obvious wish to communicate, during Sunday's TV programme "Man in the News," met with such a complete lack of sympathy or understanding from the interviewers, from whom one would have expected at least a show of open-mindedness.

Their notably patronising attitude, designed to trivialise the intentions and ideology of the undergrowth press, and the calibre of its adherents, only served to emphasise Richard Neville's patient, sincere and articulate reasonableness.—Yours faithfully,

Pamela Seigal,  
Flat 50,  
115 Westbourne Terrace,  
London W 2.

### In defence of our legal system

Sir,—Mr Grimond (Guardian August 13) says he has recently consulted two medical specialists and was charged £8 for each consultation, which I find a little more than half an hour. He asks what a barrister of standing would charge. The answer is £4, or in a comparatively trivial matter, £2.50.

Another comment: if a consultant is asked for his report and prognosis on a patient, his usual charge varies from £8 to £12. Counsel's opinion (usually longer to prepare) usually costs £10, unless—where money is involved the sum involved is £750 or less, when it will be 25 or less.

Ah, says Mr Grimond, but look at the "OZ" trial, where the total costs were enormous.

That trial was regarded as one of immense public importance, demanding great skill and attention from the distinguished counsel taking part. What would a distinguished medical

specialist charge for a completed heart operation?

The fact is that English lawyers are in general paid no more and in many instances far less for their services than those in other countries and often do a great deal for their clients purely gratuitously. The present system of legal aid has glaring anomalies—its non-availability for statutory tribunals is an example—but within its limits works surprisingly well and economically. (At least half the wives who seek divorces pay little or nothing for the entire service.)

Over the past few years the Bar Council has swept away every practice which could not be clearly justified as in the public interest and has stimulated recruiting to such an extent that many younger barristers are once again seriously underemployed. Its efforts are scarcely assisted by such muddled-headed attacks as that by Mr Grimond.—Yours faithfully,

John M. Collins,  
Leeds.

### Hope, without undue optimism

Sir,—We feel it is important to keep our work, reported in your article "Chemical test offers hope against bomb" (August 13), in perspective. We have been somewhat surprised at the suddenness with which this may be significant step forward in the application of protective chemicals in animals, as yet it hardly justifies considerable optimism about the use of chemicals to protect humans.

The hope of all workers with radioprotective chemicals is that eventually a chemical suitable for use in humans may be found: our experiments have indeed shown that one chemical,

cysteaminol, can be administered in a form which confers a degree of protection against ionising radiation for over three hours in mice instead of the more usual 15 minutes achieved with this drug. Although this may be significant step forward in the application of protective chemicals in animals, as yet it hardly justifies considerable optimism about the use of chemicals to protect humans.

F. A. Gresham,  
S. Vaughan Smith,  
Department of Experimental  
Pathology & Biochemistry,  
University of Birmingham.

### Unforeseen haste in the garden?

Sir,—I find the way in which the GLC is emptying two of the blocks of council flats in Covent Garden (Guardian August 12) strange indeed. In April this year, the GLC issued a broadsheet "Your Future," addressed to Covent Garden residents. It stated that a survey showed that only 16 per cent of residents wanted to leave the area. It also said: "The rebuilding situation isn't going to arise for three years and in some instances ten years. It is not possible to make any accurate predictions. Crystal ball gazing will not help."

We would all like a better crystal ball than we have, but

the GLC's seems worse than most, for within the month, tenants were being moved out of Sidons and Stirling buildings, out of Covent Garden. Why these buildings? They are old, and in poor repair, but no worse than nearby GLC blocks which are untouched. Why then have they been put in the first section to be tackled? Why has the "decanting" started three years early? Could it be that this haste ties up with the wish to get ahead with hotel development, for the blocks stand in a most strategic position for that purpose. It is very noticeable that the GLC, one traffic-generating

activity having been moved from the area with the shift of the market itself in 1973, seems hell-bent on bringing in two traffic-generating activities to put the road chaos back where it is, namely the proposed Conference Centre, and a 25 or 30 fold increase in hotel accommodation. It would be consistent with this aim if the long-term residents of Sidons and Stirling buildings were indeed being moved out for a luxury hotel to be built.—Yours faithfully,

(Alderman) Hugh Garfield,  
Westminster City Hall,  
Victoria Street,  
SW 1.

## Odd man out

JOHN GORTON, the fiery Premier of Australia, loses his post today as the Liberal Party's new deputy leader, as Gordon exits, PETER MARTIN, Canberra political journalist, through his years of power, reports his decline and fall.

"THE AMA agrees with us, I believe, will agree with us, its policy, and it will be its policy, inform patients who ask what the man fee is, and what their own fee is going to be operated on, if what it is on the basis of the fee or not."

No, you didn't get it wrong, reading it again.

The quotation is from John Gorton, Australia's nineteenth Prime Minister, one of a seemingly unending series of "Gortonisms" that at first drew the Australian public in three years that ended in March, 1971, with the "self-dismissal" of Gorton. Confusing in his language, Gorton was equally confusing in his actions and policies. He had been a member of the Liberal Party since 1945, and had been a member of the Government since 1949.

And, where his aptitude for a form of malapropism was to be his weapon to discredit and ridicule in the hustings, his inconsistency was eventually to be his undoing. His Government colleagues as well as his Ministers were to be removed from the Government.

The major crisis, when it came, appeared at first to be a minor party storm that Gorton survived. He was, however, a politician who, when given the chance, had failed to deny and thereby a newspaper story damaging to the Defence Minister, Malcolm Fraser, which Gorton later said he presented with his Minister's resignation.

At the party meeting that followed a vote of confidence in his leadership, Gorton was defeated. He brought a deadlock—a tied vote—33-33. He used his casting vote to himself out of office and left the Prime Ministership open to his bitter enemy, William McMahon, but then stepped in and won the Deputy Leadership of the party and settled Fraser's Defence Ministry.

The settlement couldn't last. A week the roof fell in. A veteran for 15 years, Alan Reid, correspondent for the "Sydney Daily Telegraph," had been followed up an earlier publishing scandal on Gorton's rise to power, with an article in the line of the Gorton decline and fall.

The "Gorton Experiment" was launched by Reid's proprietor, Sir Peter Packer, a close associate of Gorton's party rival (McMahon) and who had at times swung his newspaper support behind his favourite.

Attacked Gorton, the "Telegraph" said he had been "rushed into power with a mass of detail, much of it untrue. It ran together in narrative form a series of allegations and support against Gorton during office."

Among other things it said that Gorton had been more accessible to a "tail Cabinet" of cronies than to Ministers who wanted to consult and that he had frequently gone to expert public service advice on economics and foreign affairs while failing to brief himself properly for statements and decisions. It alleged he took important decisions outside Cabinet, including the decision to launch an expensive economic policy.

The book had two general "themes" partly inconsistent: the one that Gorton had been "rushed into power" and had unpredictably and inconceivably skipped through a series of "experiments" or "adventures" in Government policy, the other that Gorton had been "rushed into power" and had unpredictably and inconceivably skipped through a series of "experiments" or "adventures" in Government policy.

Five times a Minister, once a Prime Minister (the only Australian Senator elected to that post), Gorton had today retained only his position, as a member of the House of Representatives, and vote as an ordinary member of Parliament, and his formal status as a Privy Counsellor. And if there's one thing the Right Honourable Member Higgins dislikes more intensely than a few Australian pressmen, it's the present Premier, it's formally, Gorton's disclaim for formality.

After Harold Holt's death, Gorton's informal manner on television distinguished him among a group of four mediocre and relatively "unknown" candidates who battled for the succession. But the same disclaim for formality (or what he saw as a lack of formality) led Gorton to ignore public service traditions when he was appointed his advisers. The appointments created hostilities, many of them eventually to be directed against Ainslie Gorton, the PM's new Private Secretary. Young, attractive, intelligent but inexperienced in the ways of the public service—Ainslie was much a "blow-in" or "outsider"—they saw Gorton was to some of his senior Cabinet colleagues.

The similarity of their problems at different levels forced a common alliance, and the Gorton-Gordon relationship consolidated, backed by the simple "that's-the-way-it-is" authority. Rumours about that relationship, none of them ever backed by evidence, none of them quite fanciful, affected them both, particularly as a public denial would have been worse for the pointlessness.

Alan Reid has a kind man. If his book has a weakness, it probably derives from an unwillingness to look on the Gorton-Gordon relationship as its results. And John Gorton can be a kind man. His income slashed by half, his prospects for a future in politics drastically shattered, the former Prime Minister today probably has no problem still working him, what is to happen to Ainslie now?

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Odd man

# The remaking of Japan

ANTHONY HARRIS on the curious working's of the Japanese economy

THE dollar crisis, as is widely recognised, is especially a crisis in relations between the US and Japan. When President Nixon arranged to visit Tokyo in April, he was in a position to do just that: to tell the Japanese that the "unfair exchange rates" means the exchange rate between the dollar and the yen. In the past two weeks the Japanese central bank has bought \$2,000 million at the old exchange rate—half of it in the past two days, when the yen was at 360 to the dollar. It has been an extraordinary feat, and it is now clear that the yen is no longer a "floating" rate, but is being used as a lever to bring about a new balance of payments.

do grave damage to everyone's trade, and unless the Japanese do now climb down, it could still do so. It has brought the US twice to the brink of protectionism. Last year the US Congress passed the Trade Expansion Act, which would have given the President plenary and deeply embarrassing powers to protect US industry; yet no one would have been more horrified to see the Bill made law than Congressman Mills, who explained, purely designed to bring pressure on Japan in the textile talks then going on: "Japan resisted so long that only some adroit time-table manoeuvres by Mills and others killed his own Bill."

Now we have another US move—the import surcharge—designed to pressure the Japanese, this time to revise the yen. And if Japan should resist this time, the whole system of adjustments required to resolve the crisis would become impossible. The exporters of Britain, Germany and other industrialised countries simply cannot afford to watch their Governments hand a new competitive advantage to Japan, which has already the fastest-growing exports and the biggest trade surplus in the world—and by a long way.

So why are the Japanese so obstinate? Why can't they see things our way? Start discussing such questions with a Japanese, and one begins to despair of even the possibility of an understanding: market economies, the basis of international trade, don't seem to translate into Japanese. Here, for example, are some of the recent measures they have taken in international trade: a "voluntary export restraint programme" for textiles, to satisfy President Nixon and Congressman Mills; the formation of a tightly disciplined cartel to raise the prices of desk-top calculators, so that they should not be quite so competitive; a combination of restraint and higher prices for steel; a programme to raise the price of Japanese cars.

The logic behind such measures is equally Japanese. Here is a sample, straight from an explanatory document from the all-powerful trade ministry, MITI: "Japan stands squarely behind the principle of free trade... its aim is for an orderly development of trade. This means taking pains to avoid any abrupt increase in or excessive concentration of particular export items in particular markets which might produce problems for other nations (however) what Japan means by 'orderly marketing' is not merely a policy of export restraint. In avoiding conflicts it is just as important for the importing country to do its best to make its own industry as efficient as possible, and to make the necessary shifts among various sectors of industry. This kind of give and take is basic to the principle of free trade."

In other words, it's all our fault for not keeping up with the Japanese. We should be properly ashamed and adapt our economies to take Japanese exports without disruption. They give, we take. The problem is unfortunately much more than semantic: the fastest possible "orderly" growth of exports, and a big trade surplus, are central both to Japanese strategy and the Japanese economy. The Japanese see themselves as 100 million people crammed onto a tiny island with even less natural resources than we have; they also see themselves as still relatively poor—partly a delu-

sion arising from an unrealistic exchange rate, partly a perfectly true statement about pollution and inadequate housing. They are engaged on an urgent and carefully planned campaign to discover, develop and exploit natural resources for their foreseeable future needs. The trade surplus is not merely essential to keep Japanese industry going, but is used to finance an almost military campaign of foreign investment in minerals, oil, timber, plants.

DAVID FAIRHALL

## Noble nobbled

IF Mr Michael Noble has read the report on aircraft noise round Heathrow Airport—London published today by his own department he should be acutely embarrassed. His recently announced policy that the operation of existing London airports shall be halted or reversed so as to throw the pressure on to a new site, at Foulness on the Essex coast, has already caused consternation among those who were not consulted beforehand—including the British Airports Authority and even other sections of the Department of Trade and Industry. Now here is a survey which would give strong support for the opposite policy.

What it does in its elaborate statistical fashion is to confirm the commonsense assumption that once a big airport has grown up in a given place, people are less worried by an increase in aircraft traffic than by the noise of the particular aircraft that fly close overhead. In other words predictions based on the Wilson Committee's Noise and Number Index (NNI), where noise and frequency are traded off one against the other, are not born out by the evidence. The NNI concept was derived from field work done in 1961. The new report uses a survey carried out in 1967. But although the number of aircraft movements at Heathrow airport increased enormously over that period, there was no increase in the "annoyance" felt by the local population.

Another fairly obvious fact confirmed by the new survey is that working people, many of them probably dependent on airport jobs, complain less about aircraft noise than middle class communities who tend to be further away in a more rural environment. Questioning the validity of the NNI concept is not merely a negative criticism. It opens up the vital possibility that if aircraft were quieter—as the Lockheed TriStar and the Rolls Royce RB211 engine will make—living near big airports might be less annoying by them even though traffic was actually increasing. In other words one might have the best of both worlds—a second runway at Gatwick and a new airport in a noise "protection" area like the TriStar came into service.

And of course every additional runway that can be built at an existing airport like Gatwick would save several years of the requirement for a completely new third London airport, with all the irreversible destruction that implies. The Defenders of Essex, the protest group who are able to stop the new airport, claim that if existing airports were fully developed and charter traffic diverted as much as possible, it might prove possible to dispense with the new airport altogether. Except that Mr Noble, as the Minister responsible for airport planning in the DTI, is deliberately trying to concentrate all the pressure on the new site.

If the evidence produced in his department's new report is true of airports in general, and not just of the Heathrow area, then the Minister is simply storing up political trouble for his successors when the first impact of the Foulness airport is felt. But again this is a negative point, whereas the important thing about this evidence is that it offers the hope of a positive approach to the problem of airport noise.

The short take-off aircraft now on the drawing boards of the British Aircraft Corporation and Hawker Siddeley (which has also produced vertical take-off engines) is a remarkable reduction in the noise "footprint" they leave around the runway. They descend and climb so steeply and they make use of much quieter engines in a place. But they are also expensive to operate and they will only become attractive to the airlines if they carry some compensating financial advantage such as lower landing fees or the ability to use airports nearer to city centres.

At present the Government's policy consists of general noise certification measures coupled with the restrictions of traffic airports in densely populated areas near London, thus forcing the airlines out to Foulness, 50 miles away on the coast. Provided they can there they can operate the cheapest, noisiest aircraft the general international regulations permit. But if they were offered a financial incentive to operate quieter short take-off aircraft—increasing the traffic there but not, according to the latest official evidence, necessarily increasing annoyance—they might take the chance and support a British aircraft project in the process.

JIMMY REID is one of the leaders of the work-in at the old John Brown shipyard in Clydebank, which is one of the two big yards the Government proposes to close down. He is the man who coined the name Upper Clyde Shipyard Workers Unlimited for the cooperative of workers who now run the yard. He is a man who refused to shake John Davies's hand when the Minister went to Glasgow to talk about the closures; he says if he had shaken Mr Davies's hand, his name would have been for burning his off the next morning at the yard.

He is a man who sees himself in the continuing tradition of British labour, of the Chartists, the pioneers of the Labour Party, the men who lost a bitterly in 1928, and the hunger marchers of the 1930s. He was born in 1932, but he remembers what he saw as a small boy in Glasgow before the war and he cannot forget the injustice. He is a vigorous, eloquent man who should be a Labour MP. It is a crying shame that he is not, but he cannot be because he is a Communist. He is also, I believe, a moderate man.

The way into Glasgow from the airport is almost unbroken desolation and dirty tenements. The way from the city to John Brown's yard is not so much better. A sign on a wall advertises a Gospel Tent, and the message of the Gospel is "Lord Let Glasgow Flourish." Past the Cadbury Vaults, which is a big, you come to the yard. There are posters saying "Save U.S. Save Scotland." There, on a winter's day in August, I met Mr Reid in a gatehouse.

He said he had no objection to an interview. I said I didn't know and asked if he hadn't started work when he left school at 15, not in a shipyard but in a stock-broker's office. He said he had. The Labour Exchange sent him there, and he got on all right until 18 months, on principle. There was one client who used to come into the office, selling 20,000 of this and buying 10,000 of that, and the young Reid could help him by contrasting this "partic exercise" which created nothing, with the realities of his own working class life.

His father and the men around him worked all their lives creating wealth and in the end handing it to a class when he was sent to a lecture one day, he heard the lecturer say that the Stock Exchange would last as long as the present system, and

### The Terry Coleman interview



on Clydeside



REID AND DAVIES: no handshakes

## Jimmy Reid: better red than bled

thereupon, thinking he was entitled to more security than that, he left, and took up a five year apprenticeship in marine engineering.

He had been a member of the Labour Party, and was Chancellor in the Glasgow youth parliament, but by 1948 he was convinced the Atlee Government was not Socialist enough, and joined the Communist Party. After some years he became full-time secretary of the Scottish CP but resigned this office in 1969 and returned to shipbuilding, fitting engines into ships. He has campaigned for better pay for apprentices and for higher old age pensions, and is a Communist councillor in Clydeside. He is also a member of the party national executive. This October he will be a candidate for Rector of Glasgow University.

But when he resigned the secretaryship of the Scottish party, he didn't by any chance do this in order to go back into the shipyards to stir things up?—No, he said, and moreover the party disapproved of his resigning, but he had become tired of not pay enough to keep his wife and three children.

While Mr Reid was in the Labour Party, all these years ago, it often struck him that many members were more interested in pursuing their own careers than in the advancement of the working class as a whole, and that was morally wrong: the less of that the better. This is the sort of moral rectitude that is beyond most politicians, and

it is a clue to many of Mr Reid's attitudes. His first objection to the Government's winding up the yards, and putting in a liquidator, is that it is immoral, and his second objection is that it is unjust.

"Six thousand of your mates go down the road [set the sack, right, and those of you that are left, you know, if you grovel a bit, so to speak, if you might let you work." It would be the devastation of the country. Nobody believed even 2,500 out of 8,000 jobs would be saved. More like 30,000 would be lost on the Clyde altogether, because all the local industry was so dependent on shipbuilding, and it would happen within a few weeks of the yards closing.

So he was saying that by next year... "Please understand there's one man in nine unemployed in this town. Closing the UCS [Upper Clyde Shipbuilders] would mean one in four. In one fell swoop back in the thirties. The Government's policy was not only Tory but archaic. He says Harold Macmillan would never have stood for it.

Had Mr Reid's father been out of work in the thirties? For months and years. He had to go snapping in the docks. After the real docks had been taken on, the overseer would look round at the others who had come on the chance of half a shift's work, and say you, you, and you. Had I ever seen the film of "On the Waterfront", where the foreman threw the work

checks on the floor and let the men scramble for them? That was snapping.

Now, to come to the work-in. So far, and Mr Reid agrees with this, it was a gesture, because no one had been laid off and the wages were still being paid by the liquidator. All the men had one was to put pickets at the gates. But by October, when 1,000 men might be laid off, what then? Who would pay them to stay at work? Mr Reid said there were pledges of help from unions in Aberdeen, Dundee, London, and Merseyside, and thousands would help themselves every week.

But it did depend on that?—"If they don't, it's quite on the cards we shall be starved into submission." But even if the work-in did continue, against the odds, could that alone achieve what they wanted? He hoped the Government would change its mind, but if not, a government which had lost the support of the majority of the people would have forfeited the right to govern. This, expressed in grave Scots cadences, does sound like a Declaration of Independence.

... when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government. It was a bit like 1776, a bit like revolution? That, said Mr Reid, was my word; but the working

classes, without violence, could make it impossible for a government to govern.

How? "I'll be quite honest with you. I mean, Mr Heath could go in his yacht for three weeks, and be back taking his Government, he could have a flotilla of yachts and take all his friends in the City, and they could go away for six months, floating on the oceans of the world, and it wouldn't affect Britain. But if the working people reckoned they had enough and decided they were going on holiday, then the whole strategy of government and the rest goes up the shoot."

But what about the one horrible precedent? What about 1926? Mr Reid thought the world had changed since then, but he remembered what he had said to me earlier, when he was explaining that the working classes were closer than anyone else to economic realities. Take him, he had said, as an example. His wife, it sufficed at all times, it sufficed at all times to tide him over from one week to another. If he had no income for two weeks, it was poverty.

But to get back to the work-in, even if the unions could pay the men, where were the steel, paint and other materials to come from? Mr Reid mentioned pledges by men in other industries to deliver what was needed, but then said he could tell me no more. But that was just no good. I said the whole scheme

depended on supplies. It was all very well to talk about pledges, but in the end if these promises meant anything, they meant that men in other unions were ready to steal the stuff if they had to, and then bring it to the yards. Was that so?

"OK, OK, Right. And you talk to me about legality. I'll talk to you about morality. You tell me about property interests, and I'll tell you about social interests."

But I had taken his moral point—that if you're talking of stealing, then it's the Government which is stealing Clydeside's livelihood, and so on. But wasn't the truth of the matter that they couldn't hope to take over the yards (the £1,000 cheque from John Lennon and Yoko Ono notwithstanding), but that they could hope to bargain, and to arouse public opinion, so that the Government might concede more than it proposed at the moment, and save say 5,000 rather than 2,500 jobs?

He said that wouldn't do. The men had two objects. First, their experience had always been that as soon as you left a yard, that was it, finished; when the padlock went up on the gate there were no more jobs there. So they were keeping the yards open, and the workforce intact in them. Second, by continuing to work they hoped to establish the right to work.

I recalled that one or two of the old employers had been sceptical about this desire to work, and that one had said he was paying for

## MISCELLANY

### Hard tack

IN SPITE of all temptation, sailing men are not much given to political demos. Bill Kemner doesn't want to make a fuss, he's just that he can't stomach apartheid. So he has resigned as commodore of the International Fireball class, which he has built up to the verge of Olympic recognition over the past decade. He will not be running the world championships he had organised for the Lebanon next month.

Twenty-two countries have entered the two-man, cheapish (£350), high-performance boats. South Africa is sending two Fireballs. Kemner asked them to withdraw. Predictably, they refused. "I was on a loser," Kemner says. "I shall still be able to sail, but I cannot be an executive of the class with the views I hold and which are opposed by a majority."

### Jack's tar

EVEN IF they are not actually feathered, the detainees aboard Brian Faulkner's prison ship HMS Maidstone in Belfast harbour may well end up tarred. The ship occupies Ulster's only berth equipped to unload liquid tar and pitch. To save the £250,000 it would have cost to move these facilities elsewhere, the use as a floating armory was allowed holes to be cut in her sides for big heated ducts. Since then, tar tankers have regularly berthed alongside and pumped their cargo through the Maidstone's hull to the wharf.

Now, even to film the ship invites arrest, as ITN discovered last week. Wary sentries on deck train their

guns on any passing small craft. The army is in no mood to give detainees the slightest chance of a seaward escape by letting coasters tie up alongside, directly under the exercise decks and portholes.

The trouble is that Ulster has no other wharves. Roads ravaged last week await repair. IN ITS early editions yesterday, the London "Evening News", carried on undefined front-page article which began: "Ireland is pregnant with a Frankenstein. Was it a leader? An advert? Enlightenment came later, when the article was transferred between editions to page six, with the explanation that it was an article by a prominent Irish journalist. It carried no byline at the request of the writer. "He fears reprisals from the IRA." Or from the Society for the Protection of the English Metaphor?

### Crib age

FIRST THE 18-plus, then the 18-plus cribs? A signpost on the meritocratic seventies. Sleuths from the educational publishing industry have wasted no time in sounding a potential market. An offshoot of the Vice-Chancellor's Committee has been beavering away at an aptitude test for university candidates. Although they are described as merely providing "supplementary information"—to add to anything that admissions officers can glean from A-level results and heads' reports—these tests are designed to assess intelligence designed to succeed in higher education.

The Vice-Chancellors have yet to give the idea their blessing, but apparently the publishers have already been

sniffing around schools in the Birmingham area that have experimented with the tests. But a Birmingham University survey of personality factors in higher educational success throws a sceptical light on too great dependence on such tests: those who do best in the detector tests tend to get the best degrees (which fits in with evidence from elsewhere on the good performance of high scorers on scales of Machiavellianism and hypocrisy).

### Cape turn

ITALY'S European Games team returned home with five medals, but without Marcello Fiasconaro, who won one of them and shared in another. Marcello goes home tomorrow, but to his native Cape Town. Until this summer, one of Italy's brightest hopes for the 1972 Olympics had never dug his spikes into Italian soil. His father was an Italian who was captured by the British in North Africa during the last war. He was imprisoned in South Africa, where he stayed and married a Belgian. Italian scouts admired Marcello's speed when it was displaced on Cape Town rugby fields, and persuaded him to opt for Italian citizenship. Between now and next May, when he will return to Rome for pre-Olympic training, Marcello hopes also to learn Italian.

### Brain strain

HOLD FAST to your Fulbright. The dollar crisis threatens Anglo-American academic exchanges. Since through changes in parity or the cutback in United States foreign aid, the programme is funded for the most part by the State Department, through its cultural budget, with some support from the British Government.

The Fulbright Commission has earmarked \$50,000 dollars for transatlantic exchanges in 1971-2. With this money, 17 professors and 28 graduate students are due to come here from America, and 75 British scholars have been placed to go westwards. Commission officials in London are keeping stiff upper lips. At worst, they may be short of funds for some of the scholars. A quick whip-round, one side or other of the Atlantic, may be necessary to honour commitments.

### IS THE Government going in for a little quiet proffering?

When Robert Carr's Industrial Relations Bill left the Commons for a loftier place last March, it was published at 90p for 187 pages. Now that it's on Act, it costs £1.15 for the same length. Only collectors bought the Bill. Every trade union official in the land will need the Act.

### Portfolio

THE PORTUGUESE have long memories. During the 1969 elections, the Government announced in Lisbon that an opposition could organise groups and campaign—in a small way. It had to be understood, though, that as soon as the elections were over the groups would disband. The polls came, but the groups soldiered on, and in May, 1970, nine rank and file members were arrested and eventually brought to trial. Seven were acquitted and released, two were convicted of being Communists. Nearly a year later, one of the seven has been picked up again. Alvaro Monteiro is one of about 100 new detainees who are being denied access to a lawyer. The Portuguese have long memories, and thick files.

## THE stereotype of the American cop is slowly changing. In the small, peaceful park opposite my house the other day, there was suddenly a wall of police sirens as a squad car and two police motorcyclists skidded across the grass, narrowly missing the trees. Children, players, and tennis players scattered. The cause of all the commotion? One small bedraggled hippie caught smoking pot in the long grass.

Such blood and gut tactics are going out of style judging by the Police Chief's monthly magazine published here by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Its pages are full of advertisements landing the latest in "nonlethal weaponry" from multiple water shells that "scatter a mob in a hurry" to low level light binoculars for spotting midnight cat burglars.

No American policeman nowadays uses just ordinary tear gas, instead he squeezes the trigger of his third generation Mace spray or lobes one of the new Gaspopper dual-range self-launching tear gas projectiles. Once the mob has been quelled, no decent cop, of course, wants any more suffering than is strictly necessary, so like as not he will whip out his new Tear Gas Antidote in a spray can dispenser. "TGA does more than reduce human suffering," claims one advertisement in "Police Chief," "it provides your department with an important public relations plus."

Some hooligans, however, are just downright ungrateful. For those who continue to give trouble, there is nothing like a pair of nylon disposable handcuffs or better still the Nutcracker Flail, 12-inch bars of bard laminate guaranteed to still the head of the toughest hood. It comes in two eye-catching shades: "Police Black or Sheriff Tan."

## ADAM RAPHAEL Washington, Tuesday

### Cop shop

The armour plated policeman



When things really get tough, the "Police Chief" offers its readers a triple threat arsenal in riot control and self-defence. Top of the line is a High Standard Model 10 police shotgun which can be fired with one hand like a revolver "but packs the wallop and the deterrent of a 12-gauge auto leading shotgun." The second line of defence is the new Derringer .22 magnum revolver which the makers

claim is "the ideal hidden persuader."

Convenience is the big selling point of these days. Smith and Wesson's Mighty Midget tear gas kit comes in a handy "two six packs to go size... It puts 12 grenades, 12 grenade launching cartridges, and a grenade launcher right at your fingertips."

"I had four rounds of this new gas in my pockets. All it took was three," says the tough cop standing tall against a blitzed building in a genuine testimonial to the "Gaspopper."

"They lob easily up to 80 yards from a little one-handed launcher... start before they land, then pop, zip, and spin in all directions so they can't be thrown back... all the time trailing big clouds of super-stinging tear gas."

But if you are facing a really desperate armed hood, you'll need Avco Armour which gives you more than a fighting chance. Complete with an extra large steel cop-piece, it defeats a bullet up to and including .357 magnum at muzzle velocity.

"This unique armour absorbs the impact of the projectile. So you have the chance to stay on your feet and return fire or move rapidly out of the line of fire..."

With all this essential weaponry on offer plus such expensive tools as patrol helicopters "for the cop in a hurry," a police chief's shopping expedition is no simple matter. Nor must be forget about the policeman's best friend.

"Don't be rotten to the K-9 cops," appeals "Police Chief." "These hard-working loyal troopers deserve the best in kennels..."

Bob Long's exclusive Silk-N-Smooth finish is gentle to your touch and so comfortable for your dog. He may get scratched and bruised while at work but he'll be pampered when home in his Bob Long Kennel..."

Who said it was a dog's life in the police?



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# BUSINESS GUARDIAN

Guardian City Offices: 831 Salisbury House, London Wall, E.C.2

Edited by Anthony Harris and Charles Raw

There are  
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## Watney keeps on buying Truman

Watney Mann last night posted its new takeover document to shareholders in Truman Hambury Buxton. While on the market yesterday, it managed to acquire around 1 per cent of Truman's capital to increase its holding to some 31 per cent.

Grand Metropolitan Hotels failed to buy any stock in Truman yesterday and its apparent absence from the market gave rise to rumours that the company was either going to concede defeat, or at the other extreme, gear up for a new offer.

Neither rumour is accurate. The simple fact is that GM is now reluctant to buy anything but large lines of Truman stock, unlike Watney.

Meanwhile, Watney's share price—and that of International Distillers and Vintners—strengthened following release of the new offer for Truman. Watney closed 22p off at 122p, after earlier sales above Monday's opening price, while shares in IDV, part of the takeover package, eased 2p to 70p. The effect of all this was to lower the value of Watney's new offer from around 470p to nearer 450p which is still above the GM offer.

Truman itself closed 7p higher at 450p, roughly in line with the price paid by Watney for its latest purchases.

Watney's revised bid document, which is probably the last Truman shareholders will receive (GM's went out on Monday) before a barrage of last-minute changes, contains little new material, apart from technicalities relating to the warrants and preference stock.

The fact that Truman's managing director, Mr G. Duncan, plus three other Truman directors, recommend the offer is prominently recorded on the front page of the document.

## Gramco to resign USIF role

BY OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

A major reorganisation was announced yesterday by the trustee of USIF, the "liquid" real estate fund managed by Gramco International.

The £100 millions "open-end" property fund had to suspend redemptions last autumn in the wake of the Investors Overseas Services crisis and the management's own failure to keep an adequate proportion of the fund in liquid assets.

The main features of the reorganisation (proposed by the Trust Corporation of Bahamas in which both the National Westminster Bank and Morgan Grenfell amongst others have an indirect interest) are first that Gramco will resign as managing trustee of the fund and its associate, Amprop Incorporated, will resign as property manager.

Their places would be taken by Arlen Realty and Development Corporation, a public company quoted on the New York Stock Exchange.

At the same time the fund would be converted into a "closed-end" fund. This means that the 20,000 shareholders who invested their money on the promise that USIF shares would be redeemed on demand will now only be able to get their money back if a market is finally established in the shares.

Published simultaneously with the reorganisation plan is the fund's annual report for the year ended last October. Price Waterhouse, the London accountants who have audited the USIF accounts, report: "We are unable to express an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole."

The accountants are uncertain as to the number of shares outstanding, the amount of certain management and custodian fees, and the determination of the claims for cash principal, and accrued interest of £5.8 millions retained and contested by certain banks.

## Pension funds set code for share incentive schemes

By JOHN COYNE

In a move to stamp out the scandal of over-enthusiastic share option schemes for directors and top executives of quoted public companies the Investment Protection Committee of the National Association of Pension Funds has issued a general code of practice on incentive schemes.

This step has been taken because of concern at the flood of share schemes in recent months, some of which take the real preference of being incentive plans, but are simply ways of rewarding highly-paid top executives and directors in the form of lightly taxed capital.

If widely adopted throughout the City the code would outlaw the increasingly controversial aspects of many present option schemes. These bones of contention include the complete protection against possible capital losses, the issue of shares at a discount, and the requirement that the scheme be performance related, or, where it is profits-related, participants benefiting from mere inflationary trends, or from takeovers financed by equity capital.

The National Association of Pension Funds has no legal or statutory powers, but it wields enormous influence through the multi-million pound investments held by its pension fund members. Pension funds are probably the biggest single institutional investing body in the country.

Moreover most other institutions would tend to side with the association in any argument with a company board, since several recent schemes from companies have caused much scratching of heads on both sides and their merits.

It was the NAFF that was responsible recently for thwarting the plans of Cawoods Holdings, the £10-million Yorkshire Industrial holding company, to create an incentive scheme. The association was

## Harland must raise productivity

The future of Harland and Wolff, the Belfast shipyard, is dependent on "substantial increases in productivity". Though the yard's future had been regarded as secure following the Government's rescue operation earlier this year, the company's annual report makes it clear that a large increase in output is necessary in order to keep losses over the next two years within forecast.

In his review, Mr J. A. Watt, who was acting chairman until July 8, says the estimates of future losses "take account of the substantial increases of productivity expected when the new steelworking facilities become operative. The full cooperation of all concerned is essential if the necessary increases in productivity are to be achieved."

As the Government has made it clear, following its £7 millions grant to the company last month, that no further financial assistance will be forthcoming, the company has plunged into another financial crisis if the rise in output does not come up to expectations.

In part, the growth of productivity will be automatic as the company has spent many millions of pounds on a new automated steelworks, designed to treble the throughput of steel. But the steel sections still have to be assembled and while the company has talked about an increase of 700 in the labour force there will have to be a vast increase in output per man.

In spite of its acute financial difficulties, the company still managed to make a £15,000 ex gratia payment to a former executive director.

reluctant to accept the profit targets envisaged in the Cawoods scheme.

Under the proposals shares would have been issued to participants at up to a 60 per cent discount and would become fully paid (without any further payment from the participants) on the achievement of a profits target.

This target envisaged only a 20 per cent increase in per share pre-tax profits over the next 10 years, and would have been held to have been achieved if profits for just two successive years were at or above this level.

A compound inflation rate of just 2 per cent a year (compared with the past year's 10 per cent-plus) would be sufficient to leave profits at the target level within nine years, allowing the necessary two year level for the shares to become fully paid, and giving participants a fat capital profit.

The committee has laid down five basic guidelines:

1. That not more than 5 per cent of the ordinary capital of the company in issue at any time be subject to the provisions of the scheme.
2. That maximum participation open to any individual under the scheme be limited by relating the full value of shares at subscription prices to be a multiple of annual income deriving from his company.
3. A limit on the length of time participants must hold shares (e.g. five years minimum or graduated acceptance between, say, seven and fifth years) except in the event of a takeover.
4. That there should not be complete indemnity against possible loss but that participants' potential loss can be limited.
5. That part-time directors and/or employees should not normally participate.

The protection committee has specific guidelines to offer on particular types of options. On share schemes incorporating part payment it recommends that shares have less than full equity rights. In particular, no votes, capital or dividends should be attached to shares, rights issues to be in restricted shares, and either no dividends, or the yield on the issue to be the same as the yield on fully paid ordinary shares.

The committee also says that provisions should be framed in such a way that participants

are not in a position to make a profit per share in excess of that made by the shareholders who had acquired shares at the equivalent subscription price, for example in the event of a takeover the payment of less than the issue price.

Schemes incorporating loan facilities, which envisage the issue of shares at below the market price must incorporate a minimum level of corporate performance to be equalled or exceeded before participants may realise any capital gains from the shares.

The minimum level of corporate performance and the issue price of the shares for a particular issue must be disclosed to shareholders prior to the making of the issue.

Finally, schemes involving appropriations to and from reserves, the committee recommends that for any particular issue of scheme shares, the base profits figure must be increased annually to take account of inflation.

The percentage of future profits to be set aside in reserves for the scheme should not exceed 7 per cent in the event of the initial base figure being the profits for the last financial year preceding the issue of the shares, or 10 per cent in the event of the initial base profit being substantially in excess of the profits of the last financial year. For the purpose of the scheme, profit increases must be calculated on an earnings per ordinary share basis.

## Jobs for Clyde men?

SCOTT LITHGOW, the Lower Clyde shipbuilding group, is definitely ready to start taking on workers from Upper Clyde yards, the company's managing director, Mr Keith Kelch, said yesterday. The first recruits could start work at the beginning of next month, although there have been hardly any applications so far. The group is likely as long as the work-in continues.

Of the 1,000 workers Scott Lithgow expects to take, between 50 and 60 per cent would come from the steelworking trades. Among the rest, 20 to 25 per cent would be in the outfit trades and the rest would be unskilled.

## Bovril battle victor in view

CAVENHAM Foods looks virtually certain to acquire control of Bovril, the meat extract company. The company acquired a further 5 per cent of Bovril shares in the market yesterday to bring its total stake to 43 per cent.

"I think we will clinch it tomorrow," a spokesman for Keyser Ullmann, advisers to Cavenham said last night. Meanwhile, Rowntree Mackintosh and its advisers Hill Samuel were putting on a brave front and extended their rival offer, which has the support of the Bovril board, to August 20.

Hill Samuel refused to say how many acceptances Rowntree had received. "We are keeping the figure locked to our bosses for tactical reasons," a spokesman said, but he did admit that the odds were now in favour of Cavenham.

At the same time Mr Juan del Azar, who represents a group of Argentine businessmen, is waiting in the background to find out who will finally control Bovril and if that company will sell him Bovril's Argentine interests.

## Ferranti in Poland

By PETER RODGERS, Technology Correspondent

Ferranti, the privately-owned electronics company, has now made "provisional proposals" to the Polish Government for a semiconductor plant. It is interested in building near Warsaw.

The company would act as design contractors for the plant and would also advise the Poles on semiconductor and micro-circuit technology, one of the most sophisticated branches of electronics.

Plans are at an early stage and a proper bid for the contract has yet to be made. Ferranti believes that if it did design a plant there would be a bonus from early contact with a market which is likely to grow fast.

Ferranti has been in touch with the Department of Trade to ask for advice, especially on the likely effect of the NATO embargo on high technology products for Eastern block countries. Such a contract might help Ferranti itself stay in the microcircuit business.

## Japan ignores crisis and continues to accept flood of dollars

BY OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

Although foreign exchange dealing picked up in the "free" markets of Frankfurt, Zurich, and New York yesterday, the focus of attention switched to Tokyo yesterday—the one important centre where trading continues "normally."

The general consensus of opinion—that is everywhere outside Japan—is that in any general party adjustments that take place following the suspension of dollar convertibility, the yen must be awarded the biggest revaluation. Suggestions of an elevation of 20 or even 30 per cent have been made.

Any such idea is firmly opposed by the Japanese authorities, who, to back up their words, continue to buy in dollars on the Tokyo market at the old International Monetary Fund parity as if nothing had happened. Not surprisingly they were inundated with dollars and reportedly bought in nearly \$700 millions. That brings the total in two days to nearly \$1,500 millions.

With dollar deposit markets still open in London and the rest of Europe they were badly closed by the Bank of England on Monday, but quickly reloaded—this looks like a speculator's paradise. All you need to do is borrow dollars in Europe and switch them into yen in Tokyo. Even with the high interest rates prevailing—roughly 11 per cent for one month—any sizeable revaluation of the yen would allow you to pay back the dollar debt with interest and pocket a good profit.

Just how much of this is going on is hard to measure. The Japanese claim that little is taking place and that the dollars being unloaded on the Bank of Japan are dollars amassed by the commercial banks in the ordinary course of the financing of Japanese exports.

Nevertheless, in London there were rumours that the Japanese had imposed further restrictions on the holding of yen by non-residents. This was denied by official Japanese sources who said that nothing further had been done to supplement the restriction on foreign buying of Japanese bonds and securities brought in after the May dollar crisis.

There have been other reports that people are borrowing dollars heavily in Europe and elsewhere to sell in Tokyo. This may eventually force the

Japanese authorities to stop supporting the dollar, as all other countries have done: their reserves are already near to \$10,000 millions.

Zurich banks restarted dealings in currencies after the Swiss National Bank said it would not object. The central bank, however, also said it would not intervene and so the dollar was effectively floating. Dealings were light and the dollar tended to strengthen, though movements were very small. It then weakened again.

In Frankfurt, also, there was some dealing. Initially the dollar firmed up but then eased to much the same level as it closed on Monday, around 4.38 D-marks to the dollar.

In New York there was a similar pattern as the dollar initially strengthened against other currencies, then eased again. The pound was quoted in the \$2.43 to \$2.44 range, compared with a top quote on Monday of \$2.45, and its "official" ceiling of \$2.42.

In all centres, however, dealing was difficult as wide spreads in the rate were quoted.

## US payments \$5,850M in record

The United States' seasonally adjusted overall—or "liquidity"—payments deficit in the second quarter totalled \$5,850 millions compared with \$5,300 millions in the first quarter and \$945 millions in the corresponding 1970 period. This was the largest US payments deficit on record.

On the narrower but in some ways more crucial "official settlements" basis, which measures only the dollars accumulating in foreign central banks, the deficit was a seasonally adjusted \$3,770 millions. This was \$238 millions more than the first quarter's \$3,530 millions deficit and much wider than the \$1,400 millions payments gap a year earlier.

The overall figures for previous periods have been revised. The Government had adopted a new system designed to let the "underlying" trend show through more clearly. It omits the often unfavourable outflows of "hot" or speculative, money and the frequently favourable "special" Treasury dealings with other governments.

The Gold market started again yesterday too. So far, the opening price was \$428.44 an ounce, against \$425.93 \$43.15 on Friday. But the price quickly eased to \$425.93.

Spurred by the Swiss, London bullion market, which is not now officially controlled and therefore not subject to the ban that applies to trading in foreign currencies, set up a price at \$430.05 an ounce, the highest level reached recently was just over \$44—and the price stayed at around that level, moderate trading.

The London foreign exchange market is to remain closed today, by order of the Treasury. In other centres, however, looks a bit different. It is to pick up as the dollar floats. The key question will be whether the dollar is to continue to support the dollar at the official rate while other markets float, or whether there would be a massive inflow of money into Tokyo which exchange controls would be hard pushed to keep out.

## CITY COMMENT

INCENTIVES

### Overdue guideline

NOT BEFORE TIME, steps have been taken to curb the excesses that have been apparent in many of the recent spate of share "incentive" schemes from quoted companies. Too many companies have been taking advantage of the investors' sympathetic attitude to business managers (highly paid but heavily burdened with tax and thus unable to build up capital from income) to push through schemes which are little more than avoidance measures at the expense of shareholders, with rarely any hint of incentive in them.

Indeed in too many cases potential participants are being held back by large chunks of money. The recent case of Cawoods Holdings was a prime example of a non-existent incentive when the scheme was closely examined.

To have shares, issued to them at a discount of up to 60 per cent, written up to their full value without any further payment, participants had merely to sit back and let an annual 2 per cent compound inflation rate do the job.

It was really this fight that led the National Association of Pension Funds to issue its general code of conduct on share schemes. The association was fortunate in winning the battle with the Cawoods board: it swung 38.7 per cent of the votes cast, against the proposals, thus preventing the necessary 75 per cent majority approval. But what about the 61.3 per cent cast in favour of the scheme?

Can all those shareholders who cast their votes really have read through, much less understood, the complicated documents?

In these days when shareholders are deluged with such an abundance of paper documentation on their investments it is certainly unlikely, and argues that some more widespread City body should take up the guardianship from the Association of Pension Funds.

The association has performed a praiseworthy task in bringing out these guidelines, but their power lies in persuasion as large shareholders, not in any policy role. Any board looking through its share register and finding only minimal institutional holdings could happily go to shareholders without the association's good hook-keeping seal of approval and count on the general apathy prevalent nowadays to get its scheme through. The association's sole job after all is to look after its members' interests, and if they are not interested in any large degree in a company through its equity, then private shareholders have to look to their own protection.

The scope of the City panel could be widened to take in these share schemes and in conjunction with the Stock Exchange and other City institutions it should formalise and perhaps extend the pension funds' rules. Only then could it chair investors' happily endorse their companies' schemes without consulting their lawyers. It is important that share schemes should survive, for the basic argument that they are a motivating factor to hired management remains convincing.

It would be a shame if shareholders became disillusioned because of the deficiencies of a minority, and ruled such schemes out of court for the future. Even the pension funds stress that they have a general desire to assist companies in the successful launching of more incentive schemes and they are prepared to deviate from their outlined rules if a sufficient case is made out.

DOLLAR PREMIUM

### Why jump in now?

ONE OF THE stranger aspects of the current monetary crisis is the rush by UK investors to go into American securities, which has pushed the dollar premium up another 1 per cent to 24 per cent.

Yes, I know that Wall Street

is heading upwards in the new opportunity era with which American traders have been presented by President Nixon.

If the dollar is to be devalued through floating or parity realignments, why jump in now? Let's take say, 5 per cent as a basis for the devaluation.

In this event IBM shares at \$314 worth £129.75 at the last official price would only be worth £123.38 after devaluation. They would have to move up to \$330 before a UK investor broke even on these figures, and this totally ignores the 25 per cent surrender loss on the dollar premium. So just a 5 per cent devaluation factor would mean that the Dow Jones must rise to 990 before UK investors start seeing any profit.

Of course the problem is where else fund managers can see a rising trend. While Wall Street, after a hesitant start, stormed ahead again yesterday, the rest of the world's stock markets continued to slide.

In London a 5.1 fall left the index at 404.2, though trading was reported to be quiet, except for kaffirs, where gold shares fell by up to 40p. Glits, however, firmed up on reports of lower American interest rates.

Throughout the rest of Europe share prices also fell. In Australia a wave of panic selling had shares slumping, and in Japan the markets continued the slide they started on Monday with a 6 per cent fall in prices.

In most places, though, while the dollar crisis implications are bearish enough in their way, it is the continued air of uncertainty that is unsettling investors. Once the parties are agreed and new monetary policies settled a technical rally should be expected in most centres.

BRITISH RELAY

### Grey picture of distress

Relay Wireless and Television will not be impressed by the glowing reports of increased

colour television sales. If their hopes were buoyed up yesterday by the advance of 1p to 46p in the shares, they were badly let down by the news released after the close of dealings.

The group is not paying a final dividend and this means that the total payment is being slashed by six points and restricted to the 3 per cent distributed as an interim. A one-for-25 scrip dividend will hardly ease their distress.

British Relay's dividend position has been dicey for years and it only needed a slight push in the wrong direction to put the payment in danger. While a 1 per cent increase to £16.7 million in the turnover has produced a 5.5 per cent rise to £5.43 millions in the trading profit, earnings have been knocked by a jump from £3.46 millions to £3.9 millions in the depreciation charge, a heavy price for expansion.

Tax has been eliminated by capital spending, but even then earnings have dipped by nearly three points to little more than 8 per cent. Fully taxed, the group would have earned only 4.7 per cent last year.

The group's margins have been squeezed by abnormal cost inflation and the transitional problems brought about by growth, but it is a small comfort for shareholders that the results do not reflect a 250 per cent increase in the number of colour subscribers.

It is difficult to enthuse about the jump from £3.6 millions to £4.4 millions in the cash flow. While this includes the boost in the depreciation charge, it also partly stems from the dividend cut.

There has been a dramatic upsurge in the demand for colour receivers since the abolition of hire purchase and hiring controls. If the past year can be taken as a guide this is not going to be necessarily reflected in earnings in the short-run.

As a footnote to these results, the directors say that the issue of the annual report will be delayed and the annual meeting held three weeks later than usual. The shares ought to be adjusted today—downwards.

SOUTHERNS-EVAL LIMITED		
Increased Profit and Bonus Issue		
	Year to April 1971	Year to April 1970
Turnover	£25.2M	£25.6M
Net profit before tax	£1,104,036	£957,114
Net profit after tax	£861,758	£513,400
Earnings per Ordinary Share (25p)	9.62p	7.46p
Ordinary Dividend Interim	9%	9%
Dividend cover	Final 1.9 times	1.5 times
* Bonus Shares (October 1971)	1 for 10	
* For approval at A.G.M.—28th October 1971		
National service from 50 Branches and Subsidiaries		
GROUP HEAD OFFICE: Bold, Widnes, Lancs.		

## COLVERN

Pre-tax profits up 23%

In his statement to shareholders at the annual general meeting Colvern Limited, held on August 17, Mr. R. F. Collinson, chairman, reporting on the year ended March 31st, 1971, said:

\* I am pleased to announce record sales of £1,225,027 (£1,083,706) an increase of 13% and pre-tax profits 23% higher at £304,021 (£246,921). The net profit is £197,252 (£146,710) and the Directors recommend a total dividend for the year of 22%.

\* These results were achieved in a year which has not been particularly buoyant in the Electronics Industry. The increase in sales was mainly achieved by a larger volume of output: only about 3% of the increase being attributable to price increases.

\* Direct exports increased by 33% to £413,945 and now account for approximately one-third of our total sales. Our products are sold to practically every major country including some in Eastern Europe. Of our home sales, possibly some 40% is eventually exported in complete equipment.

\* Although order books are a little thinner, there has been a decided improvement in the value of incoming orders during the first three months of the current year. I am confident your Company will continue to prosper and maintain steady progress.

## LONDON SUMATRA PLANTATIONS LIMITED

Issued Capital... £1,593,171 in 10p shares  
Secretaries and Agents  
Harrisons & Crosfield, Limited

	Year 1970	Year 1969
PROFIT AND DIVIDEND		
Profit after tax and adjustments	£224,989	£295,521
Dividend for year	£220,953 (14%)	£221,543 (14%)
	Harvested 1970	Estimate 1971
CRDPS		
Rubber—kg.	14,116,739	15,479,960
Oil palm products—m. tons	12,617	13,749
Coffee—m. tons	448	550
Tea—kg.	467,732	600,000

PLANTED ACREAGE (subject to survey)  
Rubber, Oil Palm, Coffee and Tea—95,572 acres  
Annual General Meeting, 11 a.m. on 16th September 1971

هكزامن النحل



**Account : August 20**  
**Settlement : September 1**

We enjoy an advantageous position in the sales of C.I. Markal Process for Scouring of Textiles. We are able to supply the C.I. Scouring Process throughout the world with the same high quality of the product we have manufactured the same for now operating very satisfactorily.

I am confident that your Commission and fully expect increased sales March, 1972, always after from economical factors.

best exhibition in Paris of this machine, specially designed for meeting a large demand in the textile industry. Prospects of this machine are considered very bright in view of its position in being one of the scouring process and also the desizing and bleaching plant. To date, we have supplied in the U.K. and in exception of one single plant, first two Markal Plants which company is in a much stronger position than any other. It is assured profitability for the years providing that we do not lose our control.

and Western Stock Exchange last December of member firms Bartlett and Company will probably cost the Federated Stock Exchanges — all the exchanges in the British Isles — more than £185,000.

The federation has already paid £272,284 to meet the failure of Scottish brokers Gilmore Shaw in 1939 — making a total of £453,209.

The annual report of the Federation of Stock Exchanges in Great Britain and Ireland makes it clear that calls have been made on the compensation funds of the exchanges to provide money to cover estimated claims of £185,925 as a result of the failure. So far, more than £112,000 has come in from the exchanges and claims of more than £101,000 paid out.

the position of Gilmour Shaw who were declared defaulters by the Scottish Stock Exchange in 1969, shows that total claims paid, less recoveries, have amounted to £272,284. No further claims are said to be outstanding but it is anticipated that additional amounts will be recovered from the defaulter's estate."

The annual report, covering the year to the end of June 1970, shows that the federation ended the year with a deficit before tax of £2,989 for the 12 months compared with a surplus of £585 in the previous year.

The detailed scheme for the amalgamation of the Federation of Scottish Stock Exchanges into a single organisation is expected to be sent out to members by late autumn.

The company said it was advised that the petition alleged the company has value as an ongoing concern that should be preserved.

The company said it has not received a copy of the petition and has not made a decision on whether it will seek a dismissal.

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## \$2M exports

AC-Delco, the General Motors subsidiary with plants at Dunstable, Kingsbury, Liverpool and Southampton, yesterday announced a £2 million-a-year deal to export car parts, including window regulators, window sealers, door latches and heater motors, to Opel in Germany.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

We enjoy an advantageous position in the sales of C.I. Markal Process for Scouring of Textiles. We are able to supply the C.I. Scouring Process throughout the world with the assurance that the product is now manufactured the same as we have manufactured the same for now operating very satisfactorily.

I am confident that your Commission and fully expect increased sales March, 1972, always after from economical factors.

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[illegible]







# BEYOND 'A' LEVELS

## How to cut throats and enjoy yourself

by ROGER BEARD

Our family the office is that little room with the can of air freshener, the chlorine powder that cleans the round the head. Apart from the rious, it's usually only used for iding newspapers and library books. e other kind of office is reserved uniformed strangers who travel in the suburbs each day, sit at a k for seven hours, and then go ne again. The only thing they have common is regularity.

It is this view of the world of mmeres that quite rightly makes the rld the highest enterprises see red. is not just because it is untrus- and there must be some office staff do nothing all day, but because it torts the function that commerce ys in the national life.

It is also bound to put off the dity 18-year-old that the companies k to recruit. After all, who in their ses would want to work all their in a world of conformity, reatistic obsession, and a total lack of for the youngster wondering hest to exploit his seven years of ndary schooling, the business rid offers a good chance of further ection which is both traditional and dible—traditional because the com- ce colleges have always played a for part in our further education tem, flexible because the jobs open u afterwards are many and varied. Take banking. The clearing banks reate their own training schemes, bt up to the highest level, and have it up over the years, a policy of ruitment direct from the pool of year-old school leavers—with their e—rather than the university iduates. If you remember that a k manager in his mid-thirties may on £5,000 a year, that bears think- about. It is well beyond what a iduate of similar age could expect. Similarly with accountancy. The ining and education offered is- trolled by the professional bodies o ask for entry requirements up to d including two A-levels in a wide ge of subjects. Not only is the alified accountant guaranteed a good ing on his own account, but in most cases he will find an accountant the centre of the decision making. e large degree, we are all in their ds.

In fact, company secretaries, cloners, insurance workers, and vers in the world of commerce all are a similar advantage. The qualifi-

cations that give them advancement are studied for through the public sector of further and higher education, usually part-time, while they pack under their belts a good deal of salesable work experience.

Is there a particular type who will make a skilled white-collar worker or potential executive?

The short answer is no. Provided your examination passes include at O-level the two diagnostic subjects, English and mathematics, whatever you have studied at school should make little difference to your chances in the business world. Of course, some A-levels—say, economics—are more relevant than others, but the most important factor is the level achieved rather than the subjects you achieved it in.

What you are like as a person also matters less than interviewers would have you believe. There is a view, still current among some business men, that people in commerce are essentially more upright, correct, and aware of the natural order than those on the outside. A high value is placed on probity.

### Outdated view

Unfortunately, this view can attract the unattractive, the boy or girl who was always good at school, whose vision was limited by their ambition to be a prefect, who was always punctual, and who never smoked, necked, or lied—in short, the boring and the unimaginative.

For the right sort of job, with the right sort of prospects, this is a view that is outdated. What the go-ahead commercial firm wants from its trainees are flair and creativity. In an 18-year-old certainly, caution is something to be suspected. That you will learn later, more the city. The point is that you should not be put off a job by the outmoded image of those that used to go into it.

One of the most dramatic expansions in education—unnoticed by the schools and the traditional universities—has in fact been in the field of business studies. Not only can you take traditional courses at a lower level in the colleges of commerce, it is possible to take a full-time two-year BNC course at a polytechnic which will bring you close to general degree standard. At the top, again in the polytechnics, you can read for a degree with a business studies content.

Whether you approach business

education through the qualifications offered by the professional institutions, or through the more general business studies route, you will still be better equipped to deal with the day-to-day challenges of the commercial world than any previous generation. Indeed, it is remarkable not that there has been such an expansion in formal business education, but that it has taken so long to come about.

It is with this expansion that the change in the character and the quality of the intake into commerce has occurred. Mr Polly might have gone to night school, but he had little chance to do anything else. The modern business executive goes into battle armed not with ethics and the correct sense of subservience but with expertise.

How you use that expertise depends on you. If you are sufficiently fast moving and ruthless, you will get ahead. If you wait patiently for dead men's shoes, you'll never make it. Business is a very competitive racket. That is the real choice you must make when you are exploiting your A-levels in the non-university sector. If you feel that any course of study in commerce will lead automatically to a snug berth and a safe number, forget it. If you are prematurely disgusted with the material adult world, again forget it. If you feel that you can survive in a world where the other man is not just trying to con you but to do you down, where sooner rather than later you'll be tested out on your own, enrol this September for a suitable course and arrange your first fitting for that mohair suit—but make sure that it doesn't stain.

There is one final test. This year, over half a million young people left school to start into jobs. If they could find them, if you are the holder of one, let alone two A-levels, you are lucky to be among the 15 per cent or so to have that piece of paper to exploit. Of those that sat your examination earlier this year, just under one third may have a rival one. They will join another half million kids not able to show any A-level success.

The other youngsters that may take the same course as you, albeit through different routes, will be eventually your competitors—either in the same organisation or a rival one. They'll still be the people they were at school, even in your own class. If you can deal with them in a business environment, smile as you beat them round the town, and then send flowers to their professional funeral, you'll do.

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